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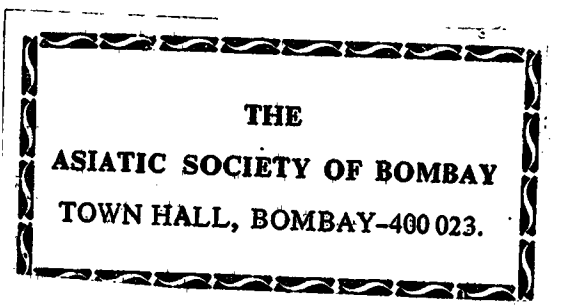

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MEMORIALS

OF THE

RIGHT HON. JAMES OSWALD.

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THE RIGHT HONBLE JAMES OSWALD M.P.

Of DUNNIKIER &c &c

PUBLISHED BY A. CONSTABLE & CO 1816

MEMORIALS

OF THE

PUBLIC LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF THE

23215
ac

Right Hon. JAMES OSWALD,

OF DUNNIKIER.

CONTAINED IN A CORRESPONDENCE WITH SOME OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED MEN OF THE LAST CENTURY.

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EDINBURGH:

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1825.

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PREFACE.

THE following detached, and frequently unconnected letters, form an inconsiderable portion of the extensive and interesting correspondence which Mr Oswald maintained with many of the leading characters, political and literary, of the times in which he lived. Unfortunately, the greater part of the valuable manuscripts, which he had carefully preserved, together with a variety of tracts and documents, relating to the different departments of the State, with which, during his active life, he had been connected, were accidentally consumed by fire; an irreparable loss to his descend-

ants, who, in whatever regards their distinguished progenitor, find ample reason to venerate his character and honour his memory.

But, however much we may deplore the loss of so many invaluable memorials of the eminent men of the last century, which could scarcely have failed to throw much light on the politics and literature of that period; the Editor nevertheless trusts, that the letters now published, even in their isolated state, will not prove altogether uninteresting to the public, since they serve to elucidate the disposition, acquirements, and conduct of the excellent person to whom they are addressed, and who was so intimately connected with nearly all the illustrious men of his time.

"It is a hard circumstance," as an elegant biographer justly remarks, "in the life of those who follow active employ-

ments alone, that, however great their eminence, however useful their labours, nay, however rare and excellent their talents, the remembrance of them dies amongst their countrymen almost with the generation that saw them flourish." It is the pious and affectionate desire of the Editor to preserve, at least for the benefit of his descendants, this memorial of a statesman, who devoted his ardent and powerful mind solely to the service of his country, and gave that influence, which his talents and virtues conferred upon him, to the purest purposes of patriotism and virtue. How much his accurate discernment, consummate knowledge of business, indefatigable application, unquestionable integrity, and disinterested friendship, were relied on by all who were connected with him by the ties of kindred, country, merit, or official duties, these fragments, or rather relics, of

an extensive correspondence, will sufficiently demonstrate: nor will Mr Oswald be in any danger of incurring the reproach, so frequently cast on those who have taken a prominent share in public affairs, that

> ——————— he narrow'd his mind,
> And to party gave up what was meant for mankind.

From this correspondence it will also be seen, that while Mr Oswald was engaged in the most laborious details of public business, his mind found a congenial relaxation in bestowing a portion of his attention on subjects connected with literature and science. At an early period of life, he had prosecuted literary pursuits with great ardour and success, and made considerable proficiency in classical learning; and had not his attention been withdrawn from literature to politics, with which it was afterwards al-

most wholly engrossed, it is not unreasonable to presume, that with his admitted talents, and capacity of application, he would have attained high literary distinction, and left a name worthy of being associated with those of his illustrious friends, whose writings reflect so much honour on Scotland, and promise to be as permanent as the language they adorn.

Hence it was, that, notwithstanding Mr Oswald's avocations, he was frequently consulted by the Philosopher, the Political Economist, and the Poet, who were his contemporaries. One long an inmate in his family, and himself an elegant scholar, left this posthumous record respecting Mr Oswald's literary attainments and connexions:—"That eminent person, (Mr Oswald,) who joined the accomplishments of a scholar to the qualities of a statesman, willingly gave the leisure he could spare to the company of men of letters,

whom he valued, and who held his great talents in high estimation. He was the first patron of Douglas; David Hume submitted to him his Essays on Political Economy, and the pages of his History, before they went to the press, and drew from his deep insight into the political state of England, both in ancient and modern times, many valuable remarks. Lord Kames consulted him upon his literary labours, and Adam Smith was indebted to that large and comprehensive mind, for many of the views of Finance, that are found in the 'Wealth of Nations.'"

Mr Oswald was born in the year 1715. In childhood he had the misfortune to lose his father, but felt the bereavement less, from being blessed with a judicious and affectionate mother, who devoted herself wholly to the education of the four sons that were bequeathed to her. She was early sensible of the uncommon ta-

lents of her eldest son, the subject of this brief notice; and although the others, who were preserved, rose high in their several professions, (the second son, a man of most respectable attainments, having been promoted to the dignity of bishop;) yet it must, in candour, be admitted, that their success in life was much aided by the efforts and reputation of their elder brother.

The Lady Dunnikier, as she is sometimes styled in these letters, cultivated James's talents with the most assiduous care, and the best education which Scotland could then afford; and thereafter gave him the benefit of foreign travel, by which he profited greatly. Upon his return, he entered as advocate, about the year 1740; but it does not appear that he ever practised at the Scottish Bar. The great object of his discerning mother was to get him early introduced into Parlia-

ment; anticipating, with more than ordinary felicity of presentiment, the splendid career he would open for himself in that theatre for great talents, when happily, as, in his case, combined with high principle and assiduous application. In the year 1741, he was elected representative for the burghs of Kirkaldy, &c. his native district; and, in every succeeding Parliament, he was returned either for these burghs, or for the county of Fife, until the year 1768, when ill health compelled him to vacate his seat, in favour of his son, the late James Townsend Oswald.

Mr Oswald was the founder of his own fortune. He went into Parliament unaided by political influence; and it was not till he gave proofs of his distinguished merit, and of the value of his services and support, that he was adopted and befriended by those in power. But he made no sacrifice of connexions, no compromise

of principle, in order to obtain office; nor did he ever concur in recommending measures which were not intended and calculated to promote the best interests of the country. In Parliament, he was by no means a frequent, but always an effective and powerful speaker. He never presumed to address the House, except on subjects which he had profoundly and anxiously meditated, and after he had digested the statements he had to make, or the information he meant to convey, in the clearest and most lucid order. Hence he was always listened to with attention and interest, by an assembly where solid practical wisdom is in much higher estimation than well-turned periods, or even the most showy and splendid declamation.

Mr Oswald filled successively the situations of Commissioner of the Navy, Lord of Trade and Plantations, Lord of the Treasury, and Treasurer of Ireland; he

was a member of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, and had only attained his fifty-second year, when he was attacked by a grievous malady, the consequence of too intense application to public business: And, whilst high in general confidence, enjoying some of the most confidential situations, and with almost a certain prospect of attaining the highest financial department in the State, he was forced to relinquish all, and retire from public life, with an exhausted frame and an impaired fortune.

Like other distinguished men, Mr Oswald had disregarded personal interests; and his fortune, originally small, had been injured by continued inattention to private concerns, and by the unavoidable expense of a public life, which public emoluments rarely repay. Happily, however, for the peace of mind of that excellent person in the closing scene of his life,

miscalculating economists had not then succeeded in depriving the Crown of a prerogative (the disposal in reversion of honourable patent offices) essential to the due and decorous reward of those who, endued with eminent talents and virtue, devote themselves wholly to the service of their country. The two gracious princes, whom Mr Oswald faithfully served, George II. and III., alike sensible of his merits, conferred upon him valuable marks of their consideration, each bestowing a reversionary grant on his son, and thereby making for him that provision, which his father's liberality, disinterestedness, and unremitting attention to public business, had caused him to overlook.

To those, if indeed there be any such, who would condemn this exercise of the prerogative of the Crown in rewarding an approved and faithful servant, or rather in compensating his family for the sacri-

fices he has made for the public benefit, the words of Burke may appropriately be addressed: "When men receive obligations from the Crown, through the pious hands of fathers, or connexions venerable as the paternal, the obligations that arise from thence are the dependencies of gratitude, not the fetters of servitude. Such ties originate in virtue, and they promote it."

By the Editor, and by those whose judgment he relies on more than upon his own, the letters now respectfully offered to the Public, are considered honourable to their different authors; they exhibit public men anxious to discharge their several duties to their Sovereign and their country, and as little under the dominion of party-spirit, as, in a form of government like ours, can reasonably be expected. Had they been of an opposite complexion, not even the motive of pre-

serving the memory of a venerated progenitor would have induced him to violate a confidence, the abuse of which is as repugnant to his principles as it would have been adverse to the feelings of the honourable and high-minded persons from whom he inherits these memorials. At the same time, he is perfectly sensible, that, owing to the fatal accident already mentioned, the present publication, which embodies the portion that was saved from destruction, is too unconnected and imperfect, to command attention beyond the daily contracting circle of those who take an interest in the names which it records, and to whom any contribution, however scanty, that relates to the manners, politics, or literature of the last century, is always acceptable.

DUNNIKIER, *March* 1825.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 140, line 10, after the word "*solve*," supply the following: "How nobody appeared for poor North Britain is another subject of speculation perhaps more difficult to solve."

Page 140, line 7, for "Earl of *Hay*," read "Earl of Ilay."

Page 176, head-line, for "The *Earl* of Belhaven," read "Lord Belhaven."

The foot-note to page 282 should have been to page 286. A mistake has been committed in ascribing both the letter beginning at page 282, and that at page 286, to Lord Loughborough, afterwards Earl of Rosslyn, and Lord High Chancellor of England. The latter only is the production of that eminent person.

CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE

RIGHT HON. JAMES OSWALD.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME,

AFTERWARDS LORD KAMES.*

London, 14th Dec. 1741.

DEAR HARRY,

ACCORDING to the promise in my last, I would have sent you the *Second Night of*

---

* Lord Woodhouslee, the able biographer of Lord Kames, introduces these letters in the Life of that eminent lawyer and philosopher, with the following remarks :—" With the late Mr Oswald of Dunnikier, whose great knowledge of political economy rendered him one of the most useful, as his disinterested patriotism one of the most respectable

the Complaint,* though I don't think it so good as the first; but I understand Sir Hugh† has sent it to Willy Hamilton, and by this time you must have seen it. It is the only tolerable new thing that has appeared this winter, except in politics; in which the *Case of the Hanover Troops*, by Lord M——t, and *Miscellaneous Thoughts*, by Lord Harvey, are both esteemed. If you have them not in Edinburgh, let me know, and I will send you them. Since my last, the most important point of this

---

of the Scottish members, during the many years he sat in Parliament, Mr Home was connected by the closest bond of friendship. It was Oswald's custom to write his friend Home on the daily business that occurred in Parliament, and to consult him on any point of difficulty on which his mind was undecided. I shall insert here a few of these letters, which, while they are strongly characteristic of the writer, are interesting, from the nature of the subjects to which they relate, and the persons whom they mention."

* Dr Young's. † Dalrymple.

session has been pretty fully discussed, and is, this night, entirely determined: I mean that of the 16,000 Hanoverians taken into British pay. The ministry endeavoured to shew, that this measure was a necessary consequence of the advice given last year to the Crown, of assisting the Queen of Hungary; that it was become a necessary measure, by the sending abroad of 16,000 British troops; and that Hanover troops, under these circumstances, were the most expedient. They were opposed on each of these points. (Here follows a detailed account of the debate.) This question has been agitated in those different debates. On the first day, MURRAY was introduced to support the Court, which he did in a set speech, extremely methodical, with great perspicuity, and very fine colouring. He was replied to by PITT, who, in the most masterly manner,

laying hold of the weakest parts of his speech, with the greatest strength of expression, and in the most manly style I ever witnessed, turned almost all his colours against him. Murray had laid a good deal of stress on exposing the inconsistency of advising one thing the one year, and the next abusing it, merely through a spirit of opposition. Pitt shewed how the object was varied, but varied by the ministers; and then turned every argument Murray had employed against himself. The one spoke like a pleader, and could not divest himself of a certain appearance of having been employed by others. The other spoke like a gentleman, like a statesman, who felt what he said, and possessed the strongest desire of conveying that feeling to others, for their own interest, and that of their country. Murray *gains* your attention by the perspi-

cuity of his arguments, and the elegance of his diction. Pitt *commands* your attention and respect, by the nobleness, the greatness of his sentiments, the strength and energy of his expressions, and the certainty you are in of his always rising to a greater elevation both of thought and style: For this talent he possesses beyond any speaker I ever heard, of never falling, from the beginning to the end of his speech, either in thought or in expression. And, as in this session he has begun to speak like a man of business, as well as an orator, he will in all probability be, or rather at present is, allowed to make as great an appearance as ever man did in that House. Murray has not spoke since, on the other two debates; where his rival carried all before him, being very unequally matched with Pelham, Young, and Winnington. I dare say you will scarce be able to read

this scrawl, which I have drawn to an immeasurable length, from the difficulty I find in having done when Pitt is the subject; for I think him sincerely the most finished character I ever knew.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

24th Dec. 1741.

DEAR HARRY,

I RECEIVED your letter and opinion, which gives me very great pleasure. It corresponds with my own notion, and may, I hope, be useful to my friend Sir Hugh; for I shall now be able to assert with confidence, if necessary, what I must otherwise have urged with the utmost diffidence. You will see by the printed votes, that the Westminster election has been declared void; I dare assure you, if you will trust my opinion, with the greatest justice. The High Bailiff, who is the returning officer, closed the poll, by shutting up the books, on pretence of a riot, when several voters present were demanding to poll; and afterwards, on pretence of the

same riot, a party of soldiers were called in, in whose presence the declaration of the poll was made. The point in debate, you will see, was, whether the poll was legally shut or not. If legally closed, the appearance of the soldiers could not be said to have influenced the election; if not legally closed, it was an act of violence which the military force was called in to support. It was urged on the court side, that the poll is over when the books are shut by the proper officer; and that this was not done till the crier had made three proclamations: but, by their own evidence, it appeared that only five minutes had intervened between each proclamation; so that the interval of ten minutes had frustrated many of their votes who had a right to poll. You will easily see that this argument might have been turned against them. An injustice done

under form of law is more impatiently suffered than an act of violence: so says Thucydides. It is, in reality, more unjust; for it is an insult on a man's understanding as well as on his right. This maxim might have been confirmed, in a particular manner, from the English history. What was it that lost King Charles his head? what King James his crown and glory?—It was not that the one raised money without law, and that the other suspended the penal statutes; but that both those unhappy princes procured judgments in their favour by the Courts of Westminster.

These topics came into my head during the debate: but it was late before the counsel had done; the House called for a division, and even the ablest speakers were heard with impatience. So I chose to be silent, rather than from any reluc-

tancy to speak. The vote was carried against the Court, by 220 against 216. Never was a case better opened, nor a reply made in a stronger manner, than was done by Murray in this case. The man is a miracle. No argument was missed; none urged but with the greatest precision: no circumstance omitted which could create an impression; none thrown in, but with the greatest propriety that judgment could suggest, or fancy improve. The courtiers are in the utmost consternation,—the patriots inflexible: what the holidays will produce is left to fate.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.*

SINCE my last, we have had nothing before us but questions concerning elections: yet these have produced both debates and divisions, which to us have appeared of some importance.

The first question was concerning a borough election in Cornwall. The court party quoted precedents: five of these were from Scotland, and not quite well understood by either side, at least by the managers; so I thought I had a lucky enough opportunity of mixing in the debate; and one of the precedents being from Dysart, was a sufficient excuse for

* This letter is without date; but it appears to have been written very soon after the preceding.

my intrusion. I endeavoured to set the precedents in what I thought their proper light, and was heard with attention; no doubt, owing to the indulgence which the House always has for young speakers. What I said seemed to hit the point, and was very well received. No precedent was urged afterwards, and the arguments, from the reason of the thing, were certainly the weakest. I have got some small degree of reputation, which, I'm afraid, it will be extremely difficult for me to maintain; for you will plainly observe, by the account I have given you, that it was chiefly owing to circumstances, and a sort of lucky hit,—partly, perhaps, to this, that some value is generally put upon what comes from a quarter whence it is least expected.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

7th January, 1742.

YOUR last letter gives me the strongest testimony of that lively friendship, which I shall ever esteem as one of the greatest advantages I ever enjoyed in life. The concern you express for any false step I may fall into, will, I believe, be one of the strongest motives I can possibly have to be upon my guard. Your opinion as to general reflections is certainly just; yet, if short and sparingly used, I observe they meet with very great approbation, even from the youngest speakers; especially if drawn from English history, or if relative to the constitution. These topics are so familiar, and yet so interesting, that they always strike, and are never

heard without pleasure. A young man, who shews but a very small knowledge on these subjects, is almost adored. Flowers of rhetoric, especially in style and expression, are a good deal more dangerous; and I could name several, whom their attachment to this sort of speaking has absolutely spoiled: for ornament without matter is of all things I know the most disgusting. And I look upon attempts of this kind as the more foolish, that I am convinced whoever makes it a rule never to speak without a knowledge of his subject, must by degrees acquire as much of rhetoric and ornament as is necessary; and am satisfied, that what leads into the other preposterous method is mere laziness and aversion to business. But, whatever may be in this, the surest way of becoming remarkable *here* is certainly ap-

plication to business; for whoever understands it must make a figure.*

* The principle adverted to, and recommended in this letter, Mr Oswald himself followed through life. He was not a frequent speaker in Parliament, but he never delivered his sentiments there without commanding the most profound attention from both sides of the House. Lord Orford, in his posthumous History, twice mentions Mr Oswald's parliamentary talents: upon one occasion, he places him on a level with the speaker he most admired, Mr Fox; on another, he thus contrasts him with the celebrated Doddington:—"Oswald overflowed with a torrent of sense and logic; Doddington was always searching for wit, and, what was surprising, generally found it; Oswald hurried argument along with him; Doddington teazed it to accompany him."

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

4th February, 1742.

I WROTE you last post, that parties were in some measure come to a crisis, and that we were in expectation of a debate upon the supplies, which would probably determine the dispute about power. The affair is now over. Sir Robert, on the night of our division upon the Chippenham election, divested himself of all his employments; and, the next day, the King, coming to the House of Peers, signified his pleasure that the two Houses should adjourn for a fortnight. The intention of this was to give his Majesty time to choose his new ministry. You may guess what a scramble there is like to be about places, &c. Perhaps our new ministry may

continue honest men even after they get power; but I would not have the safety of my country depend upon a chance; and such a virtuous ministry is, and always must be.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

6th March, 1742.

As to the two different plans of administration, though I am a professed sceptic, as to political events, yet, I don't know how, I have become a sort of dogmatist in favour of the broad bottom; it seemed to me to be the only proper plan of settling both the constitution and administration on a solid and formidable foundation. And as to its reverse, I always abhorred it, because I saw it must necessarily have been carried on by a much wider system of corruption than that employed by the last administration. But this you will say, though it might be a good reason enough for not approving it, yet it might not perhaps be quite so good to infer its want of success. Cor-

ruption is, at all times, a powerful engine; but how much more powerful must it prove, when it is to be employed by the ablest, and the scheme for which it is to be employed, is, from a strange fatality, to be patronized by the honestest and most disinterested men in the nation? Yet, notwithstanding of these apparent difficulties, I continued firm to my opinion; and the narrow bottom in my judgment, remained still both a wicked and impracticable plan.

You will remember how your friend David Hume and you used to laugh at a most sublime declamation I one night made, after a drunken expedition to Cupar, on the impotency of corruption in certain circumstances; how I maintained, that, on certain occasions, men felt, or seemed to feel, a certain dignity in themselves, which made them disdain to act

on sordid motives; and how I imagined it to be extremely possible, in such situations, that even the lowest of men might become superior to the highest temptations. What those circumstances, occasions, and situations are, I *feel* much better than I can *express*. The cause of this I am not philosopher enough to determine, but the phenomenon is certain; and in some such circumstances or situations the generality of a great assembly were, I think, obviously lately,—and are, in my opinion, in some degree still.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

(No date.)

NOTHING can be more agreeable to me, than either to recommend our friend Hume or his book. In either of these cases, the person who recommends does himself, in my opinion, an honour, as he becomes, in some degree, a sharer of that merit which is in both. But you cannot imagine what a difficult matter it is here at present to fix any man's attention, but for a moment, upon any abstract subject Such is the general indolence of mind, that one flashy, lively thing, whether in thought or expression, though in the midst of trash, is more greedily swallowed than the most elegant piece of reasoning. However, there are some of the young people about the Prince, who seem

to have a good taste. I go to no Court myself, but, as I have an opportunity of seeing some of these gentlemen, I will do what I can to excite their curiosity, and shall afterwards let you know their sentiments. I met yesterday in a bookseller's shop with three new parts of *Marianne*, which I don't know if you have yet got at Edinburgh. If not, let me know, and I will send you them down. A ninth part came out some time ago, but was spurious. The others, I fancy, are by your friend Marivaux. The pictures, I think, are entirely in his style, and the reflections both natural and delicate. I will no farther anticipate your pleasure in reading them.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

April, 1742.

You write me, that it is said, in Scotland, I absented myself on the Triennial Bill. It is true I did so, for I thought it an extreme doubtful point, so far as from information I could form any judgment. My not having such sufficient information as I could have wished, concurred to confirm me in thinking it most proper not to give any judgment upon it at all. The nation has now had nearly a pretty equal trial of triennial and septennial Parliaments. Neither of them can be called more constitutional than the other. Whichsoever, therefore, by experience, may be said to answer best the purposes of a representation of the people, ought to be singly from that consideration preferred.

During triennial Parliaments there was not so much corruption, but there was more canvassing in elections, and business was transacted with greater confusion. Controverted elections generally engrossed the first session; and the last was deserted by all who found it necessary to go down to support their interests in the country. The Crown had as great influence by places and promises; and that more money was not then employed ought not perhaps to be ascribed so much to the difference betwixt a triennial and septennial duration, as to this obvious cause, that corruption was not then so general. In a word, it was doubtful, I thought, whether the triennial term would lessen corruption. It was obvious it would increase the expense, and might possibly ruin country gentlemen. A place bill, properly balanced, would have done infi-

nite service. Such a bill would answer all the good purposes proposed by the triennial bill, and be liable to none of its bad consequences. On the other hand, in the abstract, nothing appears more clear, than that a free people ought, as often as possible, to have the liberty of changing their representatives. But all abstract propositions in politics are to be guarded against, since the good of the state, in its present circumstances, is, or ought to be, the ultimate object. In short, there was such a variety of circumstances to be taken into that question, which I had not full opportunity of considering; and the question itself was of such importance, that I thought it most consistent with my duty to give no judgment at all; and this I performed in as public a manner as I was capable of, by making a very low

bow to the Chair, after hearing the debate on both sides.

The foregoing extracts from Mr Oswald's Correspondence with Lord Kames, Lord Woodhouselee concludes with this observation, which the Editor thinks not more liberal than just, and fully warranted by the manly sentiments and enlarged views which it exhibits:—

"It were to pay an ill compliment to my readers, should I suppose any apology were necessary for the length of the preceding extracts, from a correspondence illustrative of a character so truly respectable, and one who, in his public capacity, as a member of the legislature, can never be too strongly recommended as a model of a virtuous and enlightened statesman."

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

1742.

DEAR HARRY,

THE sense I have of your friendship, joined to the weight I know you will have in setting a matter in a true light, which I am a good deal concerned in, makes me beg of you, that when you hear poor John Rutherfoord's character taken to pieces, you will satisfy such as it is possible to satisfy at all, of the following particulars:—

Rutherfoord has continued extremely firm in doing justice to his country on every occasion. But the state of his private affairs has now forced him to accept of a place, which vacates his seat in the House. He was sensible he could no longer act a part independently himself,

and therefore was willing another be chosen in his room, who may both attend better, and act more freely than he himself would for the future have been able to do. You know what construction will be put upon this. But whatever may be said in the way of party—and, no doubt, as a party man, this is a wrong step—yet I can't see that a man does wrong to his country, who being unable to serve as he ought, only accepts an office to make room for another, when there is a moral certainty that he who succeeds will be able to act a more independent part. The conduct of this poor man will no doubt put you in mind of what Lord Shaftesbury describes so well, "That many can bear themselves what they cannot suffer even to think of in their dearest relations; and that often the most valuable private affection is destructive of the

noblest public one." However,—(illegible in the MS.,)—in this Rutherfoord could not be engaged to do, actively, wrong. I am convinced no earthly consideration would have brought him to do it. But as even the length he has gone will be certainly blamed, I would have you vindicate it as far as you can; that is, as far as the thing itself will allow.

I thank you heartily for the advice in your last, as to caution in speaking. I am the more convinced of the goodness of that rule, from what I every day observe. There are numberless cases which, as they make a great noise, engage everybody to speak. But there are numbers, likewise, where nobler opportunities offer to every one to be a man of business, and yet where few appear.

The post calls.

(Signed) JAMES OSWALD.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

(No date.)

DEAR HARRY,

I BELIEVE in my last I told you that I was so great a sceptic in political transactions that I scarce ventured to hazard either my own conjectures, or those publicly made, on subjects, till the event justified them; lest otherwise they might turn out no more but vain chimeras, the children of mere fancy, or fond inclination; yet, in that very letter, if I am not mistaken, I hazarded something with respect to the Duke of Argyle, which had not then happened, though the event has since justified it. That great man has in our late political jumble—that fatal minute for the great, which, like the day of judgment, discovers the secrets of many,

—continued to act with such firmness and disinterestedness as have rendered him still more and more the darling of his friends and terror of his enemies; while some who had long dissembled, could dissemble no longer, but upon being secured of a share of power, discovered, alas! too early, that they intended to engross it, while others more honest, though surely more weak, conscious of their own integrity, allowed themselves to be led blindfold into steps from which they would have found it extremely difficult to have extricated themselves. And while others, through vanity, imagined no step to be so difficult but what their approbation would sanctify, that great man, by an honest firmness, disconcerted the fatal scheme, which, had it, by the wickedness of some, the folly and vanity of others, taken place, would undoubtedly

have soon brought this country to the brink of ruin, and must, in all events, have been established and carried through on the double bottom of division and corruption. This conduct of the Duke's confounded the guile of the crafty, opened the eyes of the weak, checked the folly of the vain, and, I hope, has quashed the hopes of the wicked. It met with all that approbation which so much virtue and good sense deserved; for I do not believe that any subject of this country ever met with such honour as the Duke had paid him on this occasion. That party, indeed, the dread of which was the shallow pretence made use of with some honest men to lead them into the iniquitous scheme of a partial administration, it must be owned, acted with the utmost moderation. You would have swore that Sir W. Wyndham's spirit had

animated every single individual; they declared they were willing to become the sacrifice of the ambition of others, if it was absolutely necessary for the good of their country, but expected a pledge that they might rely on, for their not being governed now by a partial administration carried on by corruption. As matters are settled, we are certainly not ill. Foreign affairs are certainly in the hands of an able man. The Treasury and Exchequer, are, I think, in the hands of honest men. The Admiralty is no longer in the hands of those who have made us the jest of Europe; and the army is in the hands of one who, I hope, will make us all at least be respected in it. Some good laws we certainly shall have this session. The Place Bill will carry, and I believe is a right one. One to regulate revenue officers is moved for, and will likewise be

carried. An inquiry into the public accounts will go on; and should we not get good laws enough this session, I am confident it will be in no ministry's power to prevent good ones, even for some sessions to come.

(Signed) JAMES OSWALD.

MR OSWALD TO MR HOME.

(No date.)

DEAR HARRY,

LETTERS betwixt friends ought to be free as their thoughts. How, then, is it possible for me to write to you upon certain subjects; for nothing is more certain than that those subjects, which are the easiest and most agreeable in the friendly intercourse of conversation, are the most improper for committing to paper. We can not only disclose our sentiments and passions, but even our follies and weaknesses, with a sort of pleasure, to a friend whom we respect and esteem, but we dread they should be inspected by a clerk of the post-house, whom we disdain or contemn. You will have no diffi-

culty in believing that this has been my reason for not having wrote you hitherto, upon some late events that have happened here. To write you the facts, was to send you a common newspaper; to accompany them with general reflections, was to compose perhaps a bad *Craftsman;* and yet, even now I'm a-writing, I don't know well how to do otherwise; for though I have a great deal to communicate to you, which might amuse you agreeably, I find extreme little to write about that can entertain you. But, as in the late hurry and transaction, I have been named to an office, you will no doubt expect, at least, that I should give some account of myself. I begin then with assuring you that I have not had the smallest share in the whole negotiation and transaction, which in some things I approve, in some disapprove; but these

must be reserved for conversation. It suffices to say, that it has ever been my opinion, and still is, that places ought to be the last part of every negotiation, but unluckily they have *almost* always been the first. It must, however, be owned for the present negotiators, that they refused even to treat with Lord Carteret, though invited to it by the highest authority, and tempted by a proffer of the greatest sacrifices, (for such the displacing all in opposition to him certainly was;) and so far places did not *seem* to be their view. They chose, therefore, to enter into negotiation with eleven others of the cabinet, when no such hope of places could possibly exist, because it could not possibly leave such room, as they and their friends must necessarily still be supposed to retain that which they then had. So far, then, our negotiators acted disinterested-

ly; how far prudently, is still a question. They found their conduct upon the impossibility of their ever uniting with one who had openly proposed, projected, and executed the scheme of sacrificing Britain to Hanover. But they negotiated, and are now united with, those who certainly had been instruments in that scheme, upon their disavowal of it for the future, and their promise of doing so no more. Time will shew if the one side is not dupes, and the other knaves. But, to quit reflections, you will believe, in this situation, a place was not my ambition. In any situation, my pride would have kept me from asking it. Named I was, by whom I can't tell; nor do I guess it to have been by any particular friend. The person who spoke to me did it with compliments (you may imagine them) for the occasion. I made no difficulty in

saying I would accept along with those proposed at the same time, and the good will of the whole. Difficulties might have shewed an air of importance. But the negotiation would not have stopped for my refusal; and it was as easy to go out as to come in. I hope I need n o assure you that my principles (those of a real Whig) ever are, and will be, the same; my conduct never will vary. The principles upon which this negotiation has proceeded, are not to sacrifice this country to any foreign concern, and to abolish all nominal distinctions. So far so good. But I have a great deal to say to you upon even this and many other things. The office named for me is (one) of trouble and business.* It is a sort of apprenticeship, indeed, to the greatest scene of business in this country. Apprentices break their

* Commissioner of the Navy.

indentures; and though your friend is not bound, he may possibly not keep his time. The whole of the affair seems to have been managed by three peers of this country; you know, I suppose, their names. How the whole commons of Great Britain were treated for in that manner, is a subject of speculation. Some time or other we shall talk it over; and it is not, perhaps, difficult to solve. But certain it is, no person appeared; and, what is stranger, any who had appeared would have been backed; and must have appeared both with dignity and credit. The Duke of Queensberry was ill, and in the country, but Montrose, and Marchmont, and Stair, were all in town. I don't find anybody was spoke to by either and trusted,—the negotiators as well as the rest. Thus was this affair carried on, without any from our country ap-

pearing to take a share, except Argyll, who, as one of the eleven of the cabinet, opposing Carteret, had his share on that side.

Considering his estate, and many other circumstances, particularly this last, I leave you to judge who will have the greatest share of power in Scotland. I am told he felt, and behaves with great moderation. I don't visit him, so can say nothing from my own knowledge; and now, Dear Harry, I must necessarily have tired you. I shall perhaps tell you more when I see you at Kames, which will certainly be next summer. My compliments to Mrs Home. I forgot to say, that if some expense, on this occasion, hinder the payment I intended you, I know you will delay it.

Of Lord Kames's numerous letters to Mr Oswald, the following, unfortunately, are all which have been preserved.

LORD KAMES TO MR OSWALD.

Kames, 5th November, 1754.

Sir,

Since the time I had the pleasure to see you here, an accident cast up, which gave me direct access to the Chancellor. You may believe I did not omit the opportunity of urging my favourite scheme.* I have had a letter from his Lordship, highly approving of it, &c.; and so we are

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* This alludes to Lord Kames's "favourite" plan for doing away with the rigid enactments of Scottish Entails; a "scheme," for the furtherance of which he was very anxious to secure Mr Oswald's co-operation.

engaged in the correspondence I wished for, and which I expected to obtain by your means. This will save you some trouble, which, I know, will not be disagreeable to you. But with regard to my part, having been long engaged in business, I can scarce yet get out of the notion of *quid pro quo*. Having done you a favour, as above, I expect a return. And if the favour I am now to beg, be more troublesome than the former, I am confident it will afford you more pleasure, because it will be doing more good—no less than making the fortune of a young man of merit. The case, in short, is, I have a nephew to whom I must be a father, because his own father is dead. He is regularly bred to the business of a merchant; was a year in the Custom-house at Leith, and has since been above a year with Coutts and Company. Being not

yet twenty, I choose not yet to trust him with any small stock he is entitled to. Anything, therefore, for bread for some years—a merchant's clerk, a clerk in any office, or anything that may inure him to business, and give him a little insight! I hope he is honest; but I can say as much for him as for any I ever knew, with regard to stayedness and application. You must know, I think he'll be a treasure to any man that wants such a servant. But why, after all, should I trouble you? Why, I conceive you as a man of figure in the city of London, and it is one of my favourite tenets that your countenance will go far. Employ your namesake, or any other, to seek out a proper settlement; and if you recommend, I doubt not of success. I suppose there may be little offices in your own Board, or in others where you have in-

terest If it will engage your attention, I assure you I have the thing much at heart.

Yours, most devoutly,

(Signed) HENRY HOME.

The young man's name is William Murray.

LORD KAMES TO MR OSWALD.

Kames, 3d June, 1758.

SIR,

I WRITE this, not that I think it necessary, but to satisfy the anxiety of your pupil, and my nephew, William Murray. He figures so little in his own imagination, that he has no notion of being seen by you at such a distance, unless by applying to your eye the reflecting telescope of solicitation. The figure is a little strained, but I am fond of Lord Shaftesbury's thought, who made it a point to appear undisguised to his friends, without dress or ornament, and you have the figure as it dropt from my pen. But, to let that pass, Willie is a young man I value extremely. If you have anything

to employ him, that requires diligence and fidelity, do it *meo periculo ;* you will find him extremely staunch.

Yours,

(Signed) HENRY HOME.

LORD KAMES TO MR OSWALD.

Edinburgh, 6th March, 1760.

I LAY hold of, as a pretext for writing, the opportunity I have to congratulate you upon your victory over Thurot, but not upon his death; for he was a man not less eminent for humanity than gallantry

I understand from Mr Udny, that a remonstrance is presented to the Treasury, with respect to the tax given to many Royal Burghs, of two pennies per pint of ale brewed and sold within their town. I cannot help joining in this remonstrance; for experience has proved it a most hurtful tax, not less to the revenue than to the landed interest. I am preparing some materials to set this in

the clearest light. In the meantime, I beg you'll talk to Mr Townsend, if not past remedy, to forbear hurting his town of Dalkeith, by introducing that tax there.

Our President cannot last long. Can you do anything for me to prevent repeated disgraces? I have no objection against the Justice-Clerk, or Minto, as elder judges, besides the hope of being elbowed into a Justiciary gown. But I shall think it a bitter pill to have the Advocate put over my head. Nor, at any rate, will this measure answer, for he will ruin the Court. He has neither temper nor law to do any good there. I would not, however, be a burden upon your shoulders. Rather than give you much trouble, I would drop all pretensions.

Yours,

(Signed) HENRY HOME.

LORD KAMES TO MR OSWALD.

Edinburgh, 22d Nov. 1762.

SIR,

AFTER my arrival here to attend the business of the Session, I was informed of a letter from the Treasury to the Commissioners of Excise here, demanding an explanation of several particulars alleged by them for continuing the general supervisors. In my latest conversation with those of them who are the most sanguine for the measure, they don't pretend to assign any use for those officers, other than to officiate for such collectors as happen to be detained at home by sickness, or, through old age, are unable to travel, which is mere amusement, known by them to be so; for, in the first place,

it seldom happens, or never, that these general supervisors know anything of a collector's duty; and how should they? for having no regular business, the Commissioners think themselves at liberty to name those they like, without any regard to skill or knowledge. Secondly, absent collectors may be better supplied by clerks in the office, who are trained up in examining the books of collectors, and who thereby become perfectly well acquainted with the business of a collector. To this purpose, two additional clerks will be more than sufficient, at L. 40 or L. 45 salary a-piece; attended with this farther advantage, that this is the regular method of educating for the office of a collector. But this by the way; for my view in writing was, to beg, that if the Commissioners endeavour to colour the facts in their answers, so as to make any

impression, you'll please to let me have a copy, that things may be put upon their true footing; for I have the surest means of information,—and you will not suspect me of an intention to mislead.

If my memory serve me, I informed you that I had a task upon hand for the use of my children, viz. a concise and neat Essay upon the Fundamental Principles of Morality, handled so as, without entering into controversy, to obviate all that has been said against the genuine system; a work that seems still necessary, after all that has been wrote upon morality, considering how little to this day the genuine system is understood. It shall be sent to my son George, so soon as it is writ out fair; and I shall order him to deliver you a copy, in order that you may judge for yourself, whether, in a year or two, it may not be of service to

your son. In the meantime, I have ordered George to wait on you, that you may also judge whether he may not be worthy of the grant I petitioned for. You'll find him bashful, but your remarkable easiness of access is the best remedy for that disease.

Yours obsequiously,

(Signed) HENRY HOME.

MR DAVID HUME TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I KNOW not whether I ought to congratulate you upon the success of your election, where you prevailed so unexpectedly.* I think the present times are so calamitous, and our future prospect so dismal, that it is a misfortune to have any concern in public affairs, which one cannot redress, and where it is difficult to arrive at a proper degree of insensibility or philosophy, as long as one is in the scene. You know my sentiments were always a little gloomy on that head; and

* This alludes to Mr Oswald's election as Member of Parliament for the county of Fife, where he prevailed against Sir R. Henderson, after a very keen and close-run contest.

I am sorry to observe, that all accidents (besides the natural course of events) turn out against us. What a surprising misfortune is this Bergen-op-Zoom, which is almost unparalleled in modern history! I hear the Dutch troops, besides their common cowardice, and ill discipline, are seized with an universal panic. This winter may perhaps decide the fate of Holland; and then where are we? I shall not be much disappointed if this prove the last Parliament, worthy the name, we shall ever have in Britain. I cannot, therefore, congratulate you upon your having a seat in it: I can only congratulate you upon the universal joy and satisfaction it gave to everybody; and this popularity I doubt not but you will endeavour to preserve, as more valuable than anything that politics can give you, especially in the present times. I have

some thoughts of taking advantage of this short interval of liberty that is indulged us, and of printing the Philosophical Essays I left in your hands. Our friend Harry is against this, as indiscreet. But, in the first place, I think I am too deep engaged to think of a retreat. In the second place, I see not what bad consequences follow, in the present age, from the character of an infidel; especially if a man's conduct be in other respects irreproachable. What is your opinion?

You told me, that it would be requisite to give you a power to receive from the Navy-Office that small sum for which I left a ticket with you. I have enclosed one, which, I hope, will be sufficient. I should ask your pardon for this trouble; but, as it will be easy for you to desire some of your old friends about these of-

fices to inform you when the ship is paid off, I have made the less scruple.

I have no thoughts of being in London this winter, because Colonel Abercromby thinks it will not be requisite in order to solicit my half-pay. The Colonel has small hopes of success in that matter. You will see him sometimes in the House, where he will inform you of the obstacles that occur Hume Campbell, without my asking it, offered to lend me his assistance in surmounting these obstacles. I thanked him, but desired him not to move till the Colonel should inform me of the proper time, and persons to whom he should apply. The Colonel thinks it depends altogether on the Secretary at War, who seems to be inexorable.

As you travel with Mrs Oswald, I cannot desire you to go so far out of your way as to come to this place; but, if you would

inform me of your motions, I would wait on you with pleasure at Berwick. Direct to me, to the care of Mr William Stowe, merchant; for, by that means, I shall receive your letter presently; otherwise, it will be some days, and I shall miss you.

You lent Sir James Johnstone a copy of Grotius, which he sent to me, desiring me to deliver it to you; but I had not an opportunity, and therefore left it with Fraser, who will deliver it to you.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) DAVID HUME.

NINEWELLS,
Oct. 2, 1747.

MR D. HUME TO MR OSWALD.

I HAVE little more to say to you, than to bid you adieu before I leave this country. I got an invitation from General St Clair to attend him in his new employment at the Court of Turin, which I hope will prove an agreeable, if not a profitable jaunt for me. I shall have an opportunity of seeing courts and camps; and if I can afterwards be so happy as to attain leisure and other opportunities, this knowledge may even turn to account to me, as a man of letters, which, I confess, has always been the sole object of my ambition. I have long had an intention, in my riper years, of composing some History; and I question not but some greater experience

in the operations of the field, and the intrigues of the cabinet, will be requisite, in order to enable me to speak with judgment upon these subjects. But, notwithstanding of these flattering ideas of futurity, as well as the present charms of variety, I must confess that I left home with infinite regret, where I had treasured up stores of study and plans of thinking for many years. I am sure I shall not be so happy as I should have been had I prosecuted these. But, in certain situations, a man dares not follow his own judgment, or refuse such offers as these.

The subscriptions for the stocks were filled up with wonderful quickness this year; but, as the ministry had made no private bargains with stock-jobbers, but opened books for everybody, these money-dealers have clogged the wheels a little, and the subscribers find themselves losers

on the disposal of their stock,—to their great surprise.

There was a controverted election, that has made some noise, betwixt John Pitt and Mr Drax of the Prince's family, when Mr Pelham, finding himself under a necessity of disobliging the heir-apparent, resolved to have others as deep in the scrape as himself, and accordingly obliged Fox, Pitt, Lyttleton, and Hume Campbell, all to speak on the same side. They say their speeches were very diverting. An ass could not mumble a thistle more ridiculously than they handled this subject. Particularly, our countryman, not being prepared, was not able to speak a word to the subject, but spent half an hour in protestations of his own integrity, disinterestedness, and regard to every man's right and property.

His brother, Lord Marchmont, has had

the most extraordinary adventure in the world. About three weeks ago he was at the play, where he espied in one of the boxes a fair virgin, whose looks, air, and manner, made such a powerful and wonderful effect upon him, as was visible to every by-stander. His raptures were so undisguised, his looks so expressive of passion, his inquiries so earnest, that everybody took notice of it. He soon was told that her name was Crompton, a linen-draper's daughter, that had been bankrupt last year, and had not been able to pay above five shillings in the pound. The fair nymph herself was about sixteen or seventeen, and being supported by some relations, appeared in every public place, and had fatigued every eye but that of his lordship, which, being entirely employed in the severer studies, had never till that fatal moment opened

upon her charms. Such and so powerful was their effect, as to be able to justify all the Pharamonds and Cyruses in their utmost extravagancies. He wrote next morning to her father, desiring leave to visit his daughter on honourable terms; and, in a few days, she will be Countess of Marchmont. All this is certainly true. They say many small fevers prevent a great one. Heaven be praised that I have always liked the persons and company of the fair sex! for, by that means, I hope to escape such ridiculous passions. But could you ever suspect the ambitious, the severe, the bustling, the impetuous, the violent Marchmont, of becoming so tender and gentle a swain—an Artamenes—an Oroondates?

The officers (I suppose from effeminacy) are generally much disgusted at

the service. They speak of no less [than] three hundred, high and low, who have desired leave to sell out.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours most affectionately,

(Signed) DAVID HUME.

LONDON,
Jan. 29, 1748.

MR D. HUME TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I CONFESS I was a little displeased with you for neglecting me so long; but you have made ample compensation. This commerce, I find, is of advantage to both of us;—to me, by the new lights you communicate, and to you, by giving you occasion to examine these subjects more accurately. I shall here deliver my opinion of your reasonings, with the freedom which you desire.

I never meant to say that money, in all countries which communicate, must necessarily be on a level; but on a level proportioned to their people, industry, and commodities. That is, where there

is double people, &c. there will be double money, and so on; and that the only way of keeping or increasing money is, by keeping and increasing the people and industry; not by prohibitions of exporting money, or by taxes on commodities, the methods commonly thought of. I believe we differ little on this head. You allow that if all the money in England were increased fourfold in one night, there would be a sudden rise of prices; but then, say you, the importation of foreign commodities would soon lower the prices. Here, then, is the flowing out of the money already begun. But, say you, a small part of this stock of money would suffice to buy foreign commodities, and lower the prices. I grant it would for one year, till the imported commodities be consumed. But must not the same thing be renewed next year? No, say you; the

additional stock of money may, in this interval, so increase the people and industry, as to enable them to retain their money. Here I am extremely pleased with your reasoning. I agree with you, that the increase of money, if not too sudden, naturally increases people and industry, and, by that means, may retain itself; but, if it do not produce such an increase, nothing will retain it except hoarding. Suppose twenty millions brought into Scotland; suppose that, by some fatality, we take no advantage of this to augment our industry or people, how much would remain in the quarter of a century?—not a shilling more than we have at present. My expression in the Essay needs correction, which has occasioned you to mistake it.

Your enumeration of the advantages of rich countries above poor, in point of

trade, is very just and curious; but I cannot agree with you that, barring ill policy or accidents, the former might proceed gaining upon the latter for ever. The growth of everything, both in art and nature, at last checks itself. The rich country would acquire and retain all the manufactures that require great stock or great skill; but the poor country would gain from it all the simpler and more laborious. The manufactures of London, you know, are steel, lace, silk, books, coaches, watches, furniture, fashions. But the outlying provinces have the linen and woollen trade.

The distance of China is a physical impediment to the communication, by reducing our commerce to a few commodities, and by heightening the price of these commodities, on account of the long voyage, the monopolies, and the taxes. A

Chinese works for three halfpence a-day, and is very industrious. Were he as near us as France or Spain, everything we used would be Chinese, till money and prices came to a level, that is, to such a level as is proportioned to the numbers of people, industry, and commodities of both countries.

A part of our public funds serve in place of money; for our merchants, but still more our bankers, keep less cash by them when they have stock, because they can dispose of that upon any sudden demand. This is not the case with the French funds. The *rentes* of the Hotel de Ville are not transferable, but are most of them entailed in the families. At least I know there is a great difference in this respect betwixt them and the *actions* of the Indian Company.

That the industry and people of Spain,

after the discovery of the West Indies, at first increased more than is commonly imagined, is a very curious fact; and I doubt not but you say so upon good authority, though I have not met with that observation in any author.

Beside the bad effects of the paper credit in our colonies, as it was a cheat, it must also be allowed that it banished gold and silver, by supplying their place.

On the whole, my intention in the Essay was to remove people's terrors, who are apt, from chimerical calculations, to imagine they are losing their specie, though they can shew in no instance that either their people or industry diminish; and also to expose the absurdity of guarding money otherwise than by watching over the people and their industry, and preserving or increasing them. To prohibit the exportation of money, or

the importation of commodities, is mistaken policy; and I have the pleasure of seeing you agree with me.

I have no more to say, but compliments; and therefore shall conclude.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) DAVID HUME.

NINEWELLS,
1*st Nov.* 1750.

MR D. HUME TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I AM to give you great and very hearty thanks for your care in providing for my cousin at my desire. The quickness in doing it, and the many obliging circumstances attending that good office, I shall not readily forget. What is usual, they say, makes little impression; but that this rule admits of exceptions, I feel upon every instance of your friendship.

Mr Mure told me that you had undertaken to get satisfaction with regard to the *old English subsidies*. I cannot satisfy myself on that head; but I find that all historians and antiquarians are as much at a loss. The nobility, I observe, paid ac-

cording to their rank and quality, not their estates. The counties were subjected to no valuation, but it was in the power of the commissioners to sink the sums demanded upon every individual, without raising it upon others; and they practised this art when discontented with the Court, as Charles complains of with regard to the subsidies voted by his third Parliament. Yet it seems certain that there must have been some rule of estimation. What was it? why was it so variable? Lord Strafford raised an Irish subsidy from L.12,000 to L.40,000, by changing [the] rule of valuation, but the Irish Parliament, after his impeachment, brought it down again. If Mr Harding undertakes the solution of this matter, it will be requisite to have these difficulties in his eye. I am glad to hear that we are to have your company here this summer,

and that I shall have an opportunity of talking over this, and many other subjects, where I want your advice and opinion. The more I advance in my work, the more am I convinced that the History of England has never yet been written, not only for style, which is notorious to all the world, but also for matter; such is the ignorance and partiality of all our historians. Rapin, whom I had an esteem for, is totally despicable. I may be liable to the reproach of ignorance, but I am certain of escaping that of partiality. The truth is, there is so much reason to blame and praise, alternately, King and Parliament, that I am afraid the mixture of both in my composition, being so equal, may pass sometimes for an affectation, and not the result of judgment and evidence. Of this you shall be judge; for I am resolved to encroach on your lei-

sure and patience; *Quem verò arripuit, tenet occiditque legendo.* Let me hear of you as you pass through the town, that we may concert measures for my catching you idle, and without company, at Kirkaldy. I am, dear Sir,

Yours affectionately,

(Signed) DAVID HUME.

JACK'S LAND,
28th June, 1753.

MR D. HUME TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I HAD a letter from Sir Harry Erskine last post, who tells me, that you have met with unsurmountable difficulties in that affair of my half-pay, and that we must despair of success. The difficulties, however, are no other than what I desired Mure to inform you of; though he has probably forgot. There are no precedents for a Depute Judge-Advocate having half-pay. This we found on examining the matter at the end of the former war; but, at the same time, we found, that no Judge-Advocate had ever been refused half-pay, because no one had ever been entitled to it; that office had always been supplied

from among the officers of the army, who consequently could never claim half-pay as Judge-Advocate. But, in reality, every one who has ever received half-pay upon the King's Commission, is a precedent for the Judge-Advocate, the Commissary of Stores, the Commissary of Musters, the Director of the Hospital, the Physician, the Surgeon, the Chaplain. The general principle is, (and it is founded on a vote of the House of Commons,) that whoever bears the King's Commission in a military station is entitled to half-pay ; and there cannot possibly be a reason why the Judge-Advocate should be the only exception. If I be the first Judge-Advocate, who was not an officer of the army, or had not some other office, I am also the first entitled to half-pay ; and consequently ought first to obtain it.

I remember Jemmy Pringle was made

Controller of the Hospitals in Flanders, during the former war. It was an office newly erected; but he obtained half-pay on the general principle, without any precedent.

John Mackenzie was Surgeon to the Staff on General St Clair's expedition. There was no precedent for any one in that office obtaining half-pay; yet he got it, and got it above twelve years after the expedition was finished. So that he surmounted both the objections that lie against me, and he surmounted them by no greater interest than that of Lord Fortrose. If I fail, I must be worse supported than is likely to be the fate of any man whom you call your friend.

I believe it will be allowed to be singular, and not a little remarkable, if I should be the only commissioned officer, since the Revolution, who has not obtain-

ed half-pay, which, however, will be the case, if I be disappointed.

I shall add, that it is the only thing in my life I ever asked. It is the only thing I ever shall ask, and, consequently, it is the only thing I ever shall obtain. Those who assist me in procuring it do me a great favour; and I very willingly stand obliged to my friends for their good offices: But, of the Government and Ministry, I ask it as my due. I imagined, that after Lord Bute's consent was obtained, all difficulties had been surmounted.

Pray, whom does the affair now depend on? Is it the Secretary at War? Who is he, and who does he belong to? If I knew his connections, I might probably be able by some means to facilitate your application; though, to tell you the truth, I have the most extreme reluctance to go beyond you, and ask this, or any favour of any

other man. Yet, I doubt not, if Lord Shelburne be connected with the Secretary at War, but he would, of himself, second your applications: Or perhaps Elliot, or Wood, or some other of our friends. I own, that I sometimes feel so much indignation at being obstructed, and in danger of being refused in this trifle, that I am inclined to throw up altogether, and to turn my back on these barbarians (your great men, I mean) with disdain; and as I can now be more indifferent about their favours, I believe it were my best course: But still, if you think the matter feasible, we shall make this single trial; and, if we fail, *spes et fortuna, valete.*

I am, dear Oswald,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) DAVID HUME.

EDINBURGH,
3d April, 1763.

MR D. HUME TO MR OSWALD.

My dear Sir,

There is a gentleman here, an Abbé, and a man of letters, who is willing to enter into a commerce, or mutual exchange with me, on every point of political and commercial knowledge. He has a great deal of very exact information, with regard to everything that concerns these subjects; has great freedom of thought and speech, and has no connections with any Minister. As a sample, he has sent me the enclosed questions, which I could not exactly answer, and is willing to answer any of a like kind, which I could propose to him. I thought I could not do better than transmit them to you; and as I know

you will also have questions to ask, I shall also transmit them to him, and you may depend on his answer as just and solid. I have left the margin large enough, to save you trouble. I know you are the most industrious and the most indolent man of my acquaintance; the former in business, the latter in ceremony. The present task I propose to you is of the former kind.

You will hear that Sir Charles Bunbury is appointed Secretary for Ireland. Lord Hertford thinks it absolutely certain, that I am to succeed him; and I, too, think it very probable. My Lord throws up immediately, if this demand is not complied with; yet, notwithstanding these favourable circumstances, I shall not be wonderfully surprised, in case of a disappointment. I know that I can depend on your good offices with Lord Halifax, and with every other person on whom you have in-

fluence. Lord Hertford writes this post to that noble lord. The present advantages I possess are so great, that it seems almost extravagant to doubt of success; and yet, in general, it appears to me almost incomprehensible how it should happen, that I, a philosopher, a man of letters, nowise a courtier, of the most independent spirit, who has given offence to every sect, and every party, that I, I say, such as I have described myself, should obtain an employment of dignity, and a thousand a-year. This event is in general so strange, that I fancy, in the issue, it will not have place.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) DAVID HUME.

PARIS,
2d June, 1765.

MR OSWALD TO MR HUME.

DEAR HUME,

YOUR letter of the 2d instant, gave infinite pleasure, by assuring me that Lord Hertford was using the warmest solicitation for your succeeding Bunbury: that circumstance alone, is, I think, sufficient to secure success, which, notwithstanding *your incredulity*, I might almost venture to wish you joy of. The news here, before I received your letter, were, that the ministry intended to make an offer of the Secretaryship to Lord Hertford's son: If that was so, the matter is out of doubt. But, if not, his application, in the present circumstances, cannot, I should imagine,

fail of success. My good wishes, as well as my opinion on this subject, are perfectly well known and understood by everybody. How far any interposition on my part, in any quarter whatever, could be useful to my friend, on the present occasion, you will judge by what you must have heard by this time of our situation in England. I am satisfied, however, that your success is certain, and therefore that I may wish you joy, which I do most sincerely.

Your queries I will take what pains I can to answer, and wish I could do so accurately, but that, I'm afraid, is impossible. It will take some time, and a good deal of inquiry, to do it with any degree of precision in most of your queries; to do it otherwise, would only mislead; and therefore, in such cases, I shall say so, and

assign reasons which, I hope, will be satisfactory.

Permit me now to recommend to your protection and countenance, during his stay at Paris, a young gentleman, Mr Villiars, who will have the honour of delivering this letter. He is the son of a merchant in London, who takes Paris in his way to Spain, and is as well bred, sensible a young man, as I have known. Though very young, he has already made an excursion to Canada upon his father's business, when I recommended him to our friend, G. Murray, and from whom, in return, I had the strongest testimony of his behaviour, good sense, and understanding. As he is perfect master of French, and has a good many connections at Paris, where he has likewise some pretty considerable connection in the Canada Bills,

you will not be displeased with my introducing him to your acquaintance.

Believe me ever, yours,

Most faithfully,

(Signed) JAMES OSWALD.

13*th June*, 1765.

MR JOHN RUSSEL TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

SOME time ago, at the desire of Lord Kames and Sir Alexander Dick, I drew out a few considerations on the state of entails in this country; his lordship, upon perusing the paper, was pleased to approve of the plan, with this variation, that the act 1685 should be altogether repealed.

The objection which occurred to me against this alteration, was the uncertainty that it would create in our law; because, prior to the act 1685, entails had been introduced in Scotland, and had been confirmed by the decision in the case of the Viscount of Stormonth; notwithstanding

whereof, the words of the statute 1685, would seem to import, that it was the opinion of the legislature at that time, that entails were not lawful before the date of the act; hence the old question might again be started, concerning the validity of entails at common law, and in case they should be found effectual, the lieges, in place of reaping any benefit from the repealing of that act, would be deprived of the security of the records introduced by it.

To avoid these inconveniences, I thought it better to preserve the act 1685 in force, and to put it in the power of every heir not named in the original entail, to dock the entail, by leaving the irritant and resolutive clauses out of his retour, when he should make up his titles to the entailed estate, which would, in effect, be to

limit entails to the persons existing at the time of making them.

This being a subject of so much importance to this country, whose interest I know you have so entirely at heart, I have presumed to give you the trouble of the enclosed, that you may have your thoughts on it before a bill shall be brought into Parliament. If in the hurry of public business, you shall find time to communicate any of your remarks, it would be extremely obliging. One thing will, no doubt, occur to you, that if entails shall be wholly discharged, trust rights will naturally succeed in their place; for such is the desire of mankind to perpetuate their memory, that they will fall on some device or other, to settle their inheritance on future generations. Entails have so far the preference to trust rights, that every substi-

tute heir of entail is, in effect, his own trustee; whereas trusts created in strangers, as in England, have many disadvantages: at the same time, the perpetuities created by entails in Scotland, are so destructive to all manner of commerce and property, that some remedy becomes extremely necessary.

Having said so much, I shall not add to your trouble by an apology. I cannot, however, conclude this without assuring you how much I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Signed) JOHN RUSSEL

EDINBURGH,
15*th Oct.* 1757.

THE four following Letters refer to Mr Home's first dramatic attempt, entitled *Agis*. In the Life of that poet, published some time ago by Henry Mackenzie, Esq., the venerable author remarks:—"The tragedy of *Agis* remained several years in its author's possession, without his being able to procure its admission to the stage. It was read by several of his literary friends, among whom was a gentleman of great ability, but whose abilities were better known as a politician than as a critic,—the late Mr Oswald of Dunnikeir, from whom I beg leave, in this place, to read a letter to Mr Home on the subject.* The general remarks of this letter are more distinguished by their good sense than by their novelty; and I should perhaps think it too long for the society to hear, were it not for one interesting circumstance, namely, that it contains the opinion of the great Lord Chatham on the tragedy of *Agis*, Mr Oswald having left the MS. with that illustrious Statesman, for the purpose of obtaining his remarks on it. It is pleasant thus to attend, in-

* Mr Mackenzie's Biographical Memoir of his friend Home, is given to the public in the same form in which it was originally read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

to the walks of literature and private life, the great public characters who have ruled the fate of nations; to mark the current of their minds in its purer state, unsoiled and unperturbed amidst the mazes of politics, or the stormy regions of ambition. I am, however, extremely sorry to say that Lord Chatham's (then Mr Pitt's) own letter has been lost or mislaid by Mr Home, the most careless man on earth, with regard to papers; so that we can only judge of the criticism it contained, from the representation of Mr Oswald in the letter with which it was accompanied, and in which it was amplified and enlarged."

The letter which Mr Mackenzie here supposes Mr Home to have "lost or mislaid," has, fortunately, been preserved, so that the reader will be enabled to judge of the criticism it contains, both from "the representation of Mr Oswald," and from the original itself.

SIR GILBERT ELLIOT TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I GIVE you the trouble of this letter, along with Mr Home's tragedy of *Agis*, which he has now finished. You may remember that, when you was last in Scotland, you took the trouble of reading it over in my house, with Lord Kames, and some other gentlemen. Several alterations were then proposed, chiefly with regard to the first and last act. He has revised the whole; and made these alterations so successfully, that, if I mistake not, the conduct of the piece will be found much less exceptionable than formerly. I own myself to be very much pleased with it. Some of our more rigid

critics, who call Shakespeare a barbarian, and can endure nothing which falls short of the purity and elegance of Racine, are more doubtful of its success. For my part, I cannot think fine writing is confined to one manner; natural strength and boldness may sometimes, perhaps, be allowed to compensate for the want of correctness, and even of propriety. If Mr Home meets with indulgence, I am persuaded he will improve; in time he may learn to add precision to the many other talents of a writer which he seems already to possess. If it be possible to get it brought upon the stage this winter, it would really be doing a very good-natured thing; he has undergone great variety of criticism with much patience, and has even run some hazard in adventuring, though a clergyman, to write for the stage. While he is uncertain of the fate of *Agis*, it is

impossible for him to apply to any other composition. We were in hopes of seeing you here this summer. I have nothing material to add, only that I am, with great truth,

Dear Sir,

Your sincere friend,

and obedient servant,

(Signed) GILB. ELLIOT.

EDINBURGH,
18*th Aug.* 1754.

MR OSWALD TO THE REV. MR HOME.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED last night a letter from Mr Pitt, which, as it contains a judgment on your play, I have enclosed for your consideration. Since receiving it, I have considered your piece, with a particular view to the objections contained in the letter, which, though not quite enough opened, nor sufficiently accompanied with reasons, yet, as they are said to proceed from sentiment, and come from people of taste, deserve the most serious consideration,—taste and sentiment being the ultimate tests of all poetical composition; though it is possible, by reasoning, to discover the foundations on which such judgments proceed.

The first objection seems directed singly against the *manner* in which the love affair between *Lysander* and *Euanthe* is executed, and condemnation is passed on the expression of that passion in both these personages. This criticism is founded entirely on sentiment; but, upon the best reflection I am able to make, if it is a just one, it is more deeply founded, and lies against the love intrigue itself, which is not—perhaps, from its nature, cannot be—sufficiently made a part of the main action, so as to mingle with, or be transfused into it, or contribute to the general distress or catastrophe. If that is the case, not only any imperfections in this part will be more visible, but, at the same time, less excusable, than if in those incidents or characters which are more peculiarly parts of the main design. The reason of this seems to be, that the attention

of the mind, being chiefly fixed to the main object, easily passes over whatever is immediately connected with, or contributes to it, and, consequently, easily escapes and forgives such small slips and faults as occur in the hurry which this attention creates, providing they do not intercept the view of the main object, or divert the attention any other way. Besides, while the attention remains fixed in general, such slips and faults are not so soon discovered. No questions are asked while the attention is carried on, and, in the progress, new lights arise to clear up what would otherwise be obscure. The mind rests satisfied on the whole, and only critics, perhaps, demand greater exactness. But it is quite the reverse in episodes, or double plots; for, as these infallibly divert the attention of the mind from the main object, they as infallibly

give occasion to a thousand questions, whilst unluckily the poet is not at liberty to answer or explain them, without diverting the attention and distracting the mind still further. To do it in a full degree, the main object might be wholly eclipsed and lost.

To apply this general doctrine to the present case, what, I apprehend, shocks in the episode of *Lysander* and *Euanthe* is, that their situation is not sufficiently explained to justify the impatient passion of the one, and the distressful tenderness of the other; their sentiments, neither improper in themselves, nor improperly expressed, may become so from the situation not being properly explained; and, consequently, the reader or spectator left at liberty to form such ideas of that situation as his own force of mind suggests to him, which is not always directed by

good-nature,—the very reverse of which is always indulged in subjects where aversion is professedly expected. Another inconvenience attending episodes is, that the distress they produce seldom coincides or mingles perfectly with the general distress or catastrophe of the piece; and if it does not, it plainly diminishes it in just the same proportion. This inconveniency is hard to be avoided in any episode, unless a very fortunate one indeed; and I am afraid takes place in this of *Lysander* and *Euanthe*, which, in some measure, gives occasion to the other objections, viz. that the catastrophe consists not in one general distress, but of various distresses, each occasioning a different sentiment from each other,—for this I apprehend the objection to be. The distress of *Lysander* and *Euanthe* is a different one from that of *Agis* and *Sparta*,

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through the whole play, and the sentiment of compassion different which the mind gives to each. If this is so, they may perhaps, instead of heightening the sum total of the catastrophe, by taking from each other, rather serve to diminish it. One other cause could possibly be assigned why the catastrophe strikes in this manner, and that is, that *Agis's* imprisonment, from which period the conspirators might, if they would, have put him to death, may possibly, with some minds, finish the main action in the fourth act; and, if this should be so, the deaths of *Agis*, *Lysander*, and *Euanthe*, in the fifth act, may not mark the general catastrophe, or sum total of distress, but appear as so many relations of so many various events, each of which is attended with a different, and not one uniform sentiment. Thus, if the fate of *Sparta* is supposed to be de-

termined in the fourth act, we are left in the fifth to do no more than survey the different ends of those who followed it. We may pity *Euanthe*—pity and applaud *Lysander* for his generosity—approve of *Agis* for his benevolence and stoicism, and detest the others; but the mind is not absorbed in one general passion or sentiment, of which all the particular ones are only so many parts, which easily mix and blend together; and such is, and ought to be, the tragic catastrophe.

These reflections, which I have thrown loosely together since I received Mr Pitt's letter, did not, I own, occur to me before; both as being no critic in such performances, and for being charmed, as I still am, with every detached scene of your piece, which I look upon as far the best piece of the kind I have read. But, on finding objections from a quarter for which

I have so great a deference, I was tempted to try if I could discover where the real strength of them lay; not only as success is scarcely to be expected when objections from such people remain, but as I know your genius and ability to be such as can easily free this play from them, or compose another as good, where none such shall exist. I will not pretend to answer for the pertness of any of the observations I have made, being quite a novice in these matters; but, as I write you with great freedom, I not only submit them to you, but, at same time, what occurs to me, if you shall be of opinion that either those objections, or what I have said of them, is material. What occurs, then, to me is this, that I apprehend, with your genius and facility of composition, you will find it, perhaps, both an easier, more agreeable, and a more success-

ful task, to set about composing an entire new piece, where you will be master of the whole, and thereby enabled with ease to avoid every objection that has been made; while, at the same time, you can transfuse the whole of that poetical spirit, truth of character and interest, and beauty of diction, which has been, I will take upon me to say, so justly admired in this. Should this be your own opinion, I dare say you cannot fail of success, and may, perhaps, obtain as quick a representation for the one as you could have had for the other, which, meantime, may be laid by to wait a more solemn decision, when critics, perhaps, may change their minds, as I shall always, at least, be willing to do mine. One thing you will certainly obtain,—that is, a more favourable hearing both from critics and others. What inclines me to this opinion is, that I verily

believe, to one of your genius, it is infinitely easier to compose a play free from such faults as are objected to in *Agis*, than to amend and alter those objected to. Whatever your opinion is, I beg you will write to me with freedom, and, above all, without being discouraged; for I think I can answer for your success, if you are not. I have got both copies, which I shall dispose of as you direct. All this family are well, and send their compliments. I am, dear Sir,

Yours, with great esteem,

JAMES OSWALD.

WANDSWORTH,
June 15, 1750.

THE REV. MR HOME IN REPLY TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR last letter (which I received about eight days ago) gave me almost as much pleasure as your first, which I shall always remember. You are not like those persons who say to the naked and the hungry, "Be ye clothed, be ye fed:" you really give and convey those spirits which you bid me assume. If it had not been constant rain and fog, I should have gone near by this time to have executed the alterations which you approve; but, whilst it rains or blows from the east, I have no more imagination than a porter. I agree entirely with you in thinking that the

distress of *Lysander* and *Euanthe* somewhat eclipses that of *Agis;* but I flatter myself that the greatness of their distress enforces the grand moral of the piece, which is, the necessity of good government, from the want of which the most accomplished persons perish miserably; for the chance of life, in corrupted states,

> Full oft with anguish rends the spotless heart,
> And oft associates wisdom with despair.

The success of *Agis's* reformation includes the fate of *Lysander*, who tells *Agis* that

> His petty fall waits on the public ruin,

and all along seems, both by his principles and connections, to be incapable of private happiness without public liberty. These sentiments of his were once more plainly expressed than they are at pre-

sent in the play, and I shall take care, according to your directions, to make them obvious. I am extremely pleased to find that you are so well satisfied with the expedient for enlivening the fifth act. I hope that everybody else will; especially (as you observe) it must have great effect in the representation. *Lysander* entering victorious, rouses every passion in the suspended and dubious audience; he falls—he dies, and in a moment they learn that *Agis* too is dead. Besides, the deaths of *Agis* and *Lysander* coinciding so exactly in point of time, agrees with the notion of their united ruin completing the general catastrophe. As to the last appearance of *Sandane*, I shall write the scene so as it may be left out or not. Some people are very earnest in demanding vengeance upon her actions, like the speech she makes; and I think it gives a

natural foundation to the sentiment that ends the play—

> O guilt, thy sting, &c.
> These know thee not.
> (*To Lysander and Euanthe.*)

I have some value for this moral; and, if it cannot properly be ushered in otherwise, you will perhaps be of opinion that *Sandane's* part should remain as it is.

I meet every day with something to keep me in mind—(I believe that expression is a Scotticism)—of my obligations to you. Mr Stuart, Mr Hope Weir, and other gentlemen from London, who, I presume, had their information from you, have spoke of *Agis* in a manner that procures me civilities from all hands. The spirit of trade and manufactures runs high in this country. I wish that our other political regulations kept pace with those that promote our wealth. We are

in danger of becoming *populus mercatorum, sine armis et ingenio.* The Scotch genius tends altogether to arts and arms, and must be dragged by necessity (the necessity which luxury imposes) to commerce; but, if it is once engaged, must, from its acuteness and subtlety, strike out new paths and improve the old. But I have no title to speculate in this manner to you, who have joined to the views of philosophy the solid experience of life.

I am,

with constant esteem and affection,

Yours,

(Signed) J. HOME.

ATHELSTONEFORD,

1*st Aug.* 1750.

THE RIGHT HON. WILLIAM PITT,

(AFTERWARDS EARL OF CHATHAM,)

TO MR OSWALD.

PAY-OFFICE.

DEAR SIR,

AFTER missing the pleasure of seeing you the times you have been so good to call at my house during my absence, I am extremely mortified not to be able to wait on you during my passage, as it were, through London, in my way to Bath, for which place I shall be set out by the time this note reaches you. I found the play, which I return by the bearer of this, sent from Hagley to me, and lying at my house for you. Mr Lyttleton (now be-

come Sir George) and your humble servant read it over together with much pleasure. We both found great spirit and imagery in it, as well as much deep and strong sense; there is likewise character. We think the business had better open between *Agis* and the mother, and leave out an unnecessary preceding scene. The great situation of the judgment is well kept up, in part; towards the end of it, something more of dignity and greatness might be thrown in, to hold it up to the last. With all this merit, no one can answer for the success of the play;—"'Tis not in mortals to command success," (in our squeamish age,) "but we'll do more, Sempronius,—we'll deserve it." I not only wish, but shall be glad to contribute all in my power to forward it. I hope, when I return, to kiss

your hands; and am, with the greatest regard, dear Sir,

Your most obedient,
and most humble servant,
(Signed) W. PITT.

MR HOME TO MR OSWALD.

My Dear Sir,

You post by me at a mile's distance, without letting me know of your motions. If I had been acquainted with your route, I should most certainly have put myself in your way. I think James wrote to me that you was going the west road, so I was quite thrown out. Our friend George Johnston is coming home; his brother, the Indian, desires to bring George and himself into Parliament, at any rate George. The district of boroughs, whereof Aberdeen is one, is pitched upon as a probable place to attack, and Willie Johnston has spoke to me to recommend George to the good offices of Lord Bute,

whom several people in that district would gladly serve. I don't know whether Lord Bute will, either publicly or privately, recommend any person to be elected, and therefore do not think it proper for me to write to him upon such matters, but I know that, if he recommend any person whatever, it will be George Johnston; and, as I imagine that you have the same sentiments with Lord Bute, and you talk with him upon that head, I have given you the trouble of this, which Willie Johnston will give to you, and inform you of the particulars.

I am, with my best compliments to Mrs Oswald and Jammie,

Your most faithful
and affectionate servant,
J. Home.

Greenlaw,
9th ——

THE REV. HUGH BLAIR* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

YESTERDAY, after dinner, Mr Oswald and Mr Shaw, both in perfect health, set out upon their journey. I took leave of them with great concern; and my house at present seems a desert to me. We have indeed passed our time very pleasantly together; and I hope shall long preserve

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* This letter from Dr Blair, regarding Mr Oswald's son, to whom the Editor was not more nearly related by blood, than united in the bonds of the most dutiful love and affection, he has great pleasure in publishing; especially as it shews how accurately the Doctor had appreciated his character, and how confidently he anticipated those amiable and estimable qualities which Mr Oswald continued to display during a long life, and which secured him the affectionate esteem of all those who had the happiness of being most intimately acquainted with him.

an agreeable remembrance of one another. Your son, I am confident, from my long acquaintance of him now, will fulfil your hopes: He is amiable, sensible, dutiful, and manly; and, what is the greatest test of every young man's character, he was entirely beloved by all his companions. Though not without the effervescences of youth, (which you would not have wished him to have wanted,) he is free of all vice. His progress in his studies here has been considerable. He was happy in a manly, virtuous, improving society among the young people; and I have the great satisfaction of dismissing him from us with a character as amiable and estimable as any young man whom I have ever known amongst us. I love him greatly, and shall ever love him. I could dwell upon this subject with a degree of fondness perhaps only inferior to your own;

but I check myself. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you soon in this country, when I shall be more particular.

Mr Shaw informed you by last post of the sudden death of our friend poor Dr Jardine. Few things could have happened more affecting to the circle of his friends and companions; and, in the present situation of affairs in the church, it is a real and great public loss. Two offices are vacated by his death, besides that of minister of Edinburgh,—one of the Deans of the Chapel Royal, and Dean to the Order of the Thistle. The last he got created for himself, without any salary, but the perquisite of L.50 upon the instalment of every new knight. It is of the very greatest importance to us that these offices be bestowed upon moderate clergymen, especially after the late preferment to the Chaplainry of Stirling Castle. The

Lord Chief Baron informed me of the plan which you was so good as to concert with him and Lord Northumberland in my favour. I submit most entirely to you and him whether it be proper to make any application for me. Dr Robertson, I know, has writ to Sir Alexander Gilmour and Mr Dempster, representing, that, unless the ministry choose to bestow those marks of their countenance upon such clergymen as are friends to government and law, he, for his part, will entirely withdraw from all sort of church business and management; and he has mentioned Dr Drysdale, (for whom he had before applied for Stirling Castle, without knowing that I was on the field,) myself, and Mr Lindsay, (whom Mr Hume insisted he should name,) as proper persons. I believe Solicitor Dundas has recommended Mr Webster, and one Dun-

das: if they should be the men, faction will be understood to be supported from above; and it is in vain to think of supporting the cause of patronage any longer in this country. I have writ to Lord Northumberland and the Chief Baron by last post, uncertain, indeed, whether the last be now in London or not. Mrs Blair joins with me in begging to have our best respects presented to Mrs Oswald and you; and I ever am, with the highest respect and esteem, dear Sir,

Your most obedient,

and obliged humble servant,

(Signed) HUGH BLAIR.

Monday, 2d June.

THE following comparatively unimportant letter from Dr Adam Smith to Mr Oswald is, unfortunately, the only vestige of their correspondence that has escaped destruction. This is the more deeply to be regretted, as it is well known that an uninterrupted friendship and intercourse existed betwixt these eminent persons for the greater part of their lives. In his early days, the Editor remembers well to have heard Dr Smith dilate, with a generous and enthusiastic pleasure, on the qualifications and merits of Mr Oswald; candidly avowing, at the same time, how much information he had derived, on many points, from the enlarged views and profound knowledge of that accomplished statesman. In their frequent discussions on the science of political economy, Mr Oswald brought his practical knowledge and experience in aid of the Doctor's theoretical deductions, and afforded him much valuable assistance in the laborious investigations in which he was so long engaged.

In his Life of Dr Smith, Mr Stewart adverts to the circumstance of his early and intimate acquaintance with Mr Oswald as one of the causes which induced him to undertake his great work on the Wealth of Nations; a work

which not only forms the foundation of the author's fame, but constitutes an era in the literary history of Scotland. In the same delightful piece of biography, Mr Stewart also quotes a letter of David Hume's, descriptive of the impression produced in London by the first appearance of the Theory of Moral Sentiments, and in which he playfully mentions Mr Oswald in a way finely illustrative of the innate benevolence of his character :—" Oswald protests he knows not whether he has reaped more instruction or entertainment from it; but you may easily judge what reliance can be placed on his judgment, who has been engaged all his life in public business, and *who never sees any fault in his friends.*"

DR ADAM SMITH TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

THIS will be delivered to you by Mr William Johnstone,* son to Sir James Johnstone of Westerhall, a young gentleman whom I have known intimately these four years, and of whose discretion, good temper, sincerity, and honour, I have had, during all that time, frequent proofs. You will find in him, too, if you come to know him better, some qualities which, from real and unaffected modesty, he does not at first discover; a refinement and depth of observation, and an accuracy of judgment, joined to a natural delicacy of

* Afterwards Sir William Pulteney.

sentiment, as much improved as study, and the narrow sphere of acquaintance which this country affords, can improve it. He had, first when I knew him, a good deal of vivacity and humour, but he has studied them away. He is an advocate; and, though I am sensible of the folly of prophesying with regard to the future fortune of so young a man, yet I could almost venture to foretell, that, if he lives, he will be eminent in that profession. He has, I think, every quality that ought to forward, and not one that should obstruct his progress, modesty and sincerity excepted, and these, it is to be hoped, experience and a better sense of things may, in part, cure him of. I do not, I assure you, exaggerate knowingly, but could pawn my honour upon the truth of every article. You will find him, I imagine, a young gentleman of solid, sub-

stantial (not flashy) abilities and worth. Private business obliges him to spend some time at London. He would beg to be allowed the privilege of waiting on you sometimes, to receive your advice how he may employ his time there in the manner that will tend most to his real and lasting improvement.

I am very sensible how much I presume upon your indulgence, in giving you this trouble; but, as it is to serve and comply with a person for whom I have the most entire friendship, I know you will excuse me, though guilty of an indiscretion; at least, if you do not, you will not judge others as you would desire to be judged yourself; for I am very sure a like motive would carry you to be guilty of a greater.

I would have waited on you when you was last in Scotland, had the College al-

lowed me three days' vacation; and it gave me real uneasiness that I should be in the same country with you, and not have the pleasure of seeing you. Believe it, no man can more rejoice at your late success, or at whatever else tends to your honour and prosperity, than does,

Sir,

Your ever obliged,

and very humble servant,

(Signed) ADAM SIMTH.

GLASGOW,

19*th Jan.* 1752, *N. S.*

MR ARCH. STEWART* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

NEVER poor man was more unmercifully persecuted by the malice of party rage than I have been, from the breaking out of the Rebellion here to this day. Little minds have always recourse to low artifices; and this Rebellion, when it was first talked of, was not much dreaded; but it happened at a time when our city elections were coming on, when it grew more serious. One would have thought,

* Provost of Edinburgh when that city was surrendered to the rebels in 1745. Mr Oswald warmly supported Mr Stewart, and his name appears as one of his sureties during the long, harassing, and expensive suit instituted against him for his supposed misconduct in office during that crisis.

how to suppress it would have been the uppermost thought with everybody; but I found, to my sorrow, how to distress me, and ruin my credit with the town, was what employed their minds full as much. I am thus far in my way to London, where I am willing to encounter all their malice, and wish to have my actions sifted to the bottom. I only give you the trouble of this, to acquaint you of a fact that happened lately.

I was riding on from my brother's house, seven days ago, to take leave of my wife and family before I set out for London. When I came to Bellinford, James Steel, the landlord, and his wife, seemed much surprised to see me. I asked them why? did they think I was dead?—No; but Sir Charles Gilmer's servant had been there, and had told in

the kitchen, before them and all the servants, that he himself had seen me march by Libberton at the head of the Pretender's artillery. I don't doubt but this man is ready to swear to it. But I thank God I have many creditable witnesses that I was not within thirty miles of Edinburgh for some days before their march; and, at the time he mentions, I was at my brother's house here, along with Major Cochrane, John Coutts, and several others. I went to Lord Minto's next day, where I stayed five nights, and then returned to this country, and from here to Bellinford, as I told you. Upon my return here, I was told that the Newcastle paper had put me in, as having taken the command of 500 horse, which is about the number that marched with the artillery, as I am told; and I fancy that it proceeds from the same information. No

doubt the other papers will transcribe this paragraph into theirs, and this report will be believed over the whole kingdom. I have here enclosed the paper, and marked with a cross the part that relates to me. I refer it to you, and my other friends, what's proper to be done in this matter. But I think 'tis right the world should know the truth; and, my dear James, if you have any credit still to give to a man the world has bespattered, I give you my word that neither you, nor any of those gentlemen that have ever honoured me with their friendship, shall need to blush for any act of treachery or cowardice of mine, whatever they may say behind my back. My compliments to all friends, whom I hope to see soon, if I can make my way through the mob of the several towns I must pass through,

who are all inflamed against me, by the malice of my countrymen.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most humble servant,

(Signed) ARCH. STEWART.

ALLAN BANK,
15th Nov. 1745.

Mr Oswald took a leading part in promoting the establishment of a militia force in Scotland; a measure which he, in common with most good Scotsmen, then deemed essential to the honour and security of his native country. In Smollett's History, Mr Oswald's conduct on this occasion is noticed in the following terms:—"Many of the Scots members spoke in behalf of their country, with great force of argument, and a laudable spirit of freedom. Mr Oswald of the Treasury acquitted himself with great honour; ever nervous, steady, and sagacious, independent, though in office, and invariable in pursuing the interests of his country." This conduct was duly appreciated by his countrymen; and, amongst other testimonies of approbation, we find the following from the Convention of Royal Burghs, transmitted by his respected friend Provost Drummond, one of the original promoters of the improvements since carried to so great an extent in the metropolis of the kingdom.

MR G. DRUMMOND TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

LAST week the General Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland met here, when I received their commands, as their Preses, in their name, to make you their most respectful compliments, and, in the strongest manner, to assure you that they think with the warmest gratitude of the worthy part you have always acted in the different stations of life in which Providence has placed you to promote the good of your country. But, more especially, they think themselves obliged to thank you for the distinguished appearance you made in Parliament last Session, for obtaining the establishment of a mi-

litia in Scotland, which we consider as essential to our security. And I beg leave to add, that the many proofs we have had of your affection for our most gracious Sovereign, and zeal for our happy constitution, fully persuade and assure us, that, on every future opportunity which offers, you will exert the enlarged capacity which Heaven has blessed you with, in the service of both.

I have the honour to be, with truth, and with the greatest respect,

Sir,

Your most faithful,
and most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) G. DRUMMOND.

EDINBURGH,
17*th July*, 1760.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM PROVOST DRUMMOND TO MR OSWALD.

* * * * * * *

You have, I dare say, somehow or other heard how much this city were [was] distressed for want of water for these last five months; our pit-wells were, a good many of them, quite dry, so that our brewers were, many of them, forced to bring their water at some distance out of town. Our springs at Comiston, three miles south of the town, from whence our fountains on the street are supplied, gave so little water, that almost one half of the inhabitants were obliged to buy water from off the farmers' carts, who brought it from distant places to the streets. What a terrible situation this

was to be in, I need not describe. Had a fire happened in a stormy night, this populous place might have been reduced to ashes. Three years ago, we got an act of Parliament to supply the town with water from a place above a mile south of our present reservoir. The ground belongs to Trotter of Mortonhall, whose madness, &c. nobody in this country is a stranger to. He is living in a garret in Petersburgh at present, but has given orders to his doer here to oppose our getting this water every possible way he can. We commenced a suit against him two years ago before the Deputy-Sheriff, as the law directed, in which we have met with all the delays the lawyers could practise. The Sheriff, after taking immense pains on the cause to prevent Mortonhall's having any one thing to say when he brings it before the House of Lords,

where we are assured he will carry it, has pronounced his interlocutor, and Trotter has brought it, by advocation, before the Lords of Session. Our answers are in their boxes this night, and I dare say the Lords will reject his petition to-morrow.

Our revenue is altogether unable to defray the charge of bringing in this water; and, if we ha'n't power, from an act of Parliament, to levy the necessary sum from off the inhabitants prudently, we, the Council, can't meddle in it. They are carrying on a subscription to an application to us, to apply to Parliament to get such a power; but I am afraid we are distanced, by a resolution of the House to receive no petition for private bills after the 6th of January. Will the House, on the case being justly represented to them, on which no less than the lives and properties of the whole of the inhabitants

may, in certain events, depend, be prevailed on to allow our petition to be brought in? For God's sake, sir, consider of this matter, and save this city from ruin, if it's possible. I am,

Your faithful and obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) P. DRUMMOND.

D. LODGE,
7th Feb. 1760.

DR ROBERT WHYTT TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH, *April* 29, 1750.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE frequently, upon former occasions, trespassed on your goodness in soliciting you for my friends; and now beg leave to trouble you on my own account, the occasion of which is as follows:—

In 1731, or 1732, his grace the Duke of Argyll, (then Earl of Hay,) with a view to encourage the physic classes in this place, which were then in their infancy, procured for Dr St Clair the place of King's Physician for Scotland, with L.100 salary, letting the Doctor, however, know, that the salary was meant to be divided between him and the other three professors of physic, who had no salary,

which was done accordingly. In 1733, Dr Innes, one of these professors, died; after which, the above salary was divided among Drs St Clair, Rutherfoord, and Plummer, each of whom had now a separate branch of physic to teach, viz. theory, practice, and chemistry. In 1746, Dr St Clair informed his colleagues that health would not permit him to give his course of lectures as usual; in consequence of which, I taught, at the desire of the professors, the theory of physic for one winter; and next summer (1747) was elected Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, with all the privileges thereto belonging, by the Magistrates and Town Council. At this time, although Dr St Clair recommended me strongly to the Lord Provost, yet he declined giving in a demission of his pro-

fessorship, upon which the Town Council elected me successor to Dr Innes, who had been fourteen years dead. After my election, I never sought after the share of the salary which Dr Innes had enjoyed before his death, partly from a kind of delicacy, and because I had ground to suspect that the other three Professors thought they were noways obliged to communicate any part of it to me. About three weeks ago, Dr Plummer died, so that now there remain only Drs St Clair and Rutherfoord of the four Professors that existed when the office of King's Physician was first given to Dr St Clair.

The question then is, whether Dr Cullen (a very deserving man, and successor to Dr Plummer) and I are any way entitled to a share of the L.100 per annum, or if the whole must go between Drs St Clair and

Rutherfoord? The intention of first bestowing this office was to encourage the Professors of Medicine who had no salary; but, in the present case, the whole is likely to go to two Professors, one of whom has been laid aside from doing duty for these ten years past.

I beg you will lay this affair before his grace the Duke of Argyll, since it will entirely depend upon him whether Dr Cullen and I shall have that share of the King's Physician's salary which our predecessors had, or not. His grace will, I hope, believe me when I say, that Dr Cullen and I will contribute to the utmost of our power to support the reputation of the physic classes in Edinburgh, and thereby endeavour to deserve the countenance of the Duke of Argyll.

I shall not detain you with making an apology for the trouble I now give you;

but only assure you that I am, with real esteem and regard, dear Sir,

Your most humble
and obliged servant,
(Signed) ROBERT WHYTT.

DR ROBERT WHYTT TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH, *Oct.* 19, 1764.

DEAR SIR,

THE inclosed letter, which I received from Lady Gask, desiring me to write you on her behalf, will fully explain to you the situation she is in, and the service that she thinks it in your power to do her. I must leave it to yourself to judge whether it is best to write to Mr Grenville, or to talk with him when you return to London. At any rate, I hope you will excuse this trouble, which former instances of your friendship have encouraged me to give you; and believe me to be, with particular regard, dear Sir,

Your most humble
and obedient servant,
(Signed) ROBERT WHYTT.

THE EARL OF MORTON TO MR OSWALD.

Friday, 1st March,
HOUSE OF LORDS.

DEAR SIR,

THE Commissioners from the Clergy are to dine at my house to-morrow, where it will be necessary a neutral person should be present, to witness the conversation; therefore, I beg I may have the honour of your company, and that you'd be with me at two o'clock, that I may have a little time to tell you what has passed with some of the great folks. Mr Hope dines with us, but he is a sort of party. Pray don't fail to come, and you shall get away in full time. Adieu.

Yours,

(Signed) MORTON.

Pray let me have an answer by the bearer; and, once more, I beg you don't fail to come.

THE EARL OF MORTON TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

As Mr Mitchell cannot attend the Clergy's Committee to-morrow, I beg, if possible, you will be there present, and early, which I hope you won't refuse, especially as you have not attended that Committee in two or three of their last meetings. We had once very near been blown up, for want of a sufficient number of members; and, as the Advocate, and some other gentlemen, never failed to attend punctually, unless we have somebody present to answer his powerful arguments, we may possibly lose some material questions, when the Committee is

thin; when the House begins to fill with members, we are in less danger.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your most humble servant,

(Signed) MORTON.

Sunday, May 12.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF QUEENSBERRY. TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

THE hopes of seeing you yesterday prevented me from returning the inclosed sooner, intending to deliver it into your own hands. I assure you it has been seen by nobody but myself, neither will I give the least hint to anybody of your having had anything to do with it. I am extremely obliged to you for the trouble you have been so good to take already, and should be mighty glad to know when I may hope for another conversation with you on the same subject, at any time or place most convenient for you.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) QUEENSBERRY.

BURLINGTON GARDENS,
March 31, 1747.

FROM THE EARL OF BUCHAN TO ——.*

SIR,

I HAD just now the favour of yours. You judge very well of my sentiments as to Mr Oswald. I have a great regard for him, and I think his behaviour in Parliament deserves it. I will not fail, without delay, to use my interest with the gentlemen you mention, and to serve Mr Oswald in every other way in my power. And I shall always be glad of every opportunity of shewing you with how much sincerity I am, Sir,

Your most obliged,
humble servant,
(Signed) BUCHAN.

UPHALL,
June 28, 1747.

* This letter is apparently addressed to some *third* person,—not to Mr Oswald.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS TO MR OSWALD.

(No date.)

SIR,

No doubt you have heard that the noblemen and gentlemen of this county came into a general concert to mend the highways leading from the passage of Kinghorn to Perth, Dundee, &c. This was begun about the end of June last, and could not have possibly been carried on with that alacrity and success, without obliging not only the farmers of the neighbouring parishes to work at it, but likewise the towns and burghs to attend and send out the inhabitants. The town of Kirkaldy has objected against this, and has employed lawyers in Edinburgh to defend their plea, against all gentlemen concerned. Being at a meeting of a

committee, upon inspecting the accounts of the expense already laid out upon the roads, the gentlemen present were pleased to empower me to lay this case before you, desiring you would endeavour, this Session of Parliament, with your utmost diligence and assiduity, to get a clause annexed to our act, obliging all towns and burghs to attend, and send out their inhabitants to work and assist at repairing of highways, when required by Justices of Peace, or otherwise.

I am likewise desired to represent to you, that the salt proprietors in this kingdom are again assured that the people of Glasgow are resolved immediately to apply to Parliament for a licence to import rock-salt from England into this country. Their pretence before was for boiling it over in this country; and now they say it's for the improvement of the intended

fisheries. It's therefore desired and expected by all the proprietors here, that you will be diligent as much as possible in getting both Scotch and English members in the House to oppose and throw out the motion, as soon as it appears before you; since the allowing of such a project would be of great disadvantage to the English proprietors of salt, and would entirely ruin the proprietors here. Mr Walter Blackett, Mr James Tempest, and Mr Shuttleworth, are gentlemen who can assist you in this vigorously.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) WEMYSS.

Your answer to this, to shew that I have executed my commision, will be obliging.

LORD SINCLAIR TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I HAVE seen yours to Lord Wemyss, and, by it, presume that my lord has not been distinct in his application, which has occasioned the reasoning in yours, as it's impossible to get the Committee together before April, to which time they have adjourned. Give me leave to explain to you the design and cause of this application. You'll see, by the enclosed copies of all the acts of Parliament relating to the highways, that all persons, without distinction of town or country, are obliged to give six days' attendance to the reparation of the highways, when called on by the Justices of Peace, and Commissioners of Supply. But the

late act of 5th George I. for amending and making more effectual the laws for repairing the highways has had a very contrary effect, and raised a doubt where there was none before;—to wit, Whether those living in Royal Burghs are liable to be called on in their turn, as not being expressly mentioned. The same argument may be made use of for the villages, for they are as little mentioned in the act as the Burghs Royal. Therefore, all that's wanted is an explanatory clause, obliging them to take a share of the burden, and give the same attendance as tenants, cottars, and other labouring men mentioned in the act; since some lawyers have encouraged them to think that, not being specified, they are not obliged to do that service; and, if I may offer a clause, under your correction and better judgment, let it be some such thing as

follows:—Since a doubt has arisen whether royal burghs, burghs of baronies, not being mentioned to do services by the late act of Parliament for repairing highways, that it may be declared that the intention of the law was not to exempt them.

I can't think that it will meet with any opposition from any of the representatives of the counties, because it gives a great assistance to counties where any burghs are; and any of the representatives of the burghs, of common sense, can't but see that it is the greatest advantage to the burghs to have highways betwixt burgh and burgh kept in repair; and, after the first making, it will be done very insensibly.

It were to be wished to that clause may be added an obligation on all the feuars and proprietors in every village to

pave before their own doors where the King's highway passes. My Lord Rothes and my brother ought to be spoke to on this occasion, and, no doubt, will give their assistance; though, I confess, it may occasion some little heartburning against you and my brother, though it's only some few of the lowest of the people in Kirkaldy (mostly Seceders) that pretend to make this stand. But it's easy to evit that, by getting any of your friends to present it. The reason that all the townspeople give for that opposition is, that they uphold their own streets, for which it's known the petty customs was given them for that end.

There's a project on foot in Mid-Lothian to apply to Parliament for turnpikes on several roads leading to Edinburgh; perhaps that may be a proper occasion to get our clause inserted. We

are to have a general meeting of the salt-masters on Tuesday next at Edinburgh, and shall send my brother the result of it. I make your mother, your lady, and you, the compliments of the season; and am, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

(Signed) SINCLAIR.

DYSART,
5th Jan. 1750.

We are not wanting a novelty, only to have the late act 5th George I. so explained as to bring the burghs under the same services as formerly.

THE EARL OF CRAUFURD TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I ASK pardon for this freedom; but my anxiety to have my uncle, the bearer, here before my return to London, is the occasion of it. He informs me that it would be a considerable loss to him, were he to come off before he recover some money he has too rashly given to two of our countrymen, and that his only fund of payment is money due to them by the Navy Office. He therefore insists I would write to you in his favour, being assured (as he writes) that, upon the smallest recommendation from you to any of the Commissioners, the money will be immediately paid. I am

ashamed to ask you the favour, but, if you shall be so good as grant it to my uncle, [I] shall take it as done to myself. I am, with great esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) CRAWFURD.

KILBURNIE,
22d Sept. 1750.

He writes, that the two ships are the *Squirrel* man-of-war, and *Ursula* tender.

THE EARL OF MORAY TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

THE strongest proof that I can give you of my being thoroughly pleased with this new mark of his Majesty's goodness to you is, that anything in my power that can contribute to your being returned will not be wanting upon this occasion. I congratulate you most heartily upon this new promotion,* and I hope and believe you will meet with no opposition; in your town, to the westward of this county, you will not meet with a more sincere welcome from anybody than from,

My dear Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

(Signed) MORAY.

DONIBRISLE,
19*th Dec.* 1751.

* To the office of a Lord of Trade and Plantations.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I SEND you a letter to Lord Milton, in which I have inclosed one to Lord Minto; and his last I should have sent to yourself, but it gives you too much crop, (as they call it,) to be delivered out of your own hands. I send you also the ostensible. I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.

(Signed) ARGYLL.

I shall write by the post to-night to Lord Milton.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

SIR,

I WISH you so much success in the business you are about, that I cannot help being anxious to know how you go on. I have writ to several, who possibly [may] be desirous of my opinion, to let them know, that I think nobody has [served] or can serve our country better than you. I say this often behind your back, and therefore may, without flattery, say it once to yourself. I hope you will meet with no difficulty; and I am, very sincerely, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) ARGYLL.

Jan. 2, 1752.

LORD ELIBANK TO MR OSWALD.

'Tis dangerous to oblige importunate men;—the more you comply, the more they demand; and granting them one favour, though done on purpose to get rid of them, only makes way for their teazing you for another. I must own myself a conspicuous instance of this, when, so soon after the very great favour you was pleased to do me, in providing for our friend Low, this comes to beg you will put him into a better ship. This is a most glaring attempt on your good-nature; and yet I have no better excuse for it, than that I owe obligations to Low's father, and have so good an opinion of himself, that I wish much to serve, and can take upon me to recommend him.

I was to have kissed your hands at Kirkaldy, but was told you had been so busy with the magistrates the night before, that I thought it as well to put it off till our meeting at London, which I propose shall be soon. I am, dear Sir, with truth and esteem,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) ELIBANK.

BALLININF,
Oct. 15, 1750.

My friend is surgeon on board the *Fly* sloop, and wants to be removed on board the *Anglesey*, a 40-gun ship, ready to launch at Plymouth.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR,

You might reasonably expect that your former complaisance in providing for Low, whom I took the liberty to recommend to you, and whose fortune you have made, would secure you against applications of the same nature from one who professes to have no pretence to the favour of men in power. I must have recourse to the old distinction of the man and the courtier, and am persuaded that the latter will never get the better of the former, so far as to hinder you from forgiving the importunity of one who really esteems you. My preface is rather too long, but, being just on the way for Spa, I have not time to shorten it.

Sir Richard Murray of Blackbarronie is my chief; he was disinherited by the late Blackbarronie, without crime or pretence; was bred a merchant in Edinburgh, and had the fate common to that profession in Scotland,—he *broke*. He is a man of family, amongst the very eldest knights of Nova Scotia, nearly related to the Duchess of Dorset, and to most of the nobility in Scotland; has all manner of negative merit; has application, and knows accounts. He wants to go out to the West Indies, in any station [that] can give him bread; and, if you find him worthy of your protection, I am persuaded you will bestow it on him when an opportunity offers; and you will lay an additional obligation on, dear Sir,

Your most obliged,

and most humble servant,

(Signed) ELIBANK.

May 12, 1752.

THE EARL OF LAUDERDALE TO MR OSWALD.

HATTON, *Jan.* 9, 1750-1.

DEAR SIR,

I BEG leave, in behalf of the Committee appointed by the landholders in Scotland to oppose the scheme of the Clergy, particularly to solicit your consideration of that affair. The Committee, as well as their constituents, are of opinion that the clergy have no manner of right to what they are asking; and they flatter themselves that the House of Commons will determine their demand to be altogether unreasonable. They also look upon it as a thing of consequence to the landholders of Scotland that this affair should be fairly stated to the House, and fully heard,

in order that the like propositions may be prevented in time to come; and think they can have no security, if it is only slurred over, or even rejected without a hearing. Your knowledge of this country will suggest to you many reasons for putting a final stop to such applications, which can never be made without great confusions and heart-burnings in this country.

It is supposed that the Clergy will enter their petition as early in the Session as possible; and it will be necessary that some of our friends should take a part, in order to delay our materials being laid before the House till about the 20th of March, by which time, and not sooner, we shall be able to state the facts with regard to the present situation of the Clergy, and the false grounds they have gone upon, in their calculation to the General Assembly

upon this application; nor can we expect to get such counsel as we intend to send from this sooner up.

I have wrote to our friend Andrew Mitchell, to beg that he will take a share in this affair, and have also told him that I have wrote to you about it; and I hope you will take occasion to talk and act in concert together about it. I make no doubt but you will find our demand on this, and on all other occasions, so reasonable, that you will be able to take a part with us, which would be greatly advantageous to our cause; and it is most necessary that the men of business and esteem in the House, of this country, should understand and take part with us in this affair.

Mr Webb is our solicitor at London, and can furnish very good reasons for the delay we demand; and will furnish you

with all information you want, from time to time, as this affair goes on.

I beg leave to assure you that I have the honour to be, with great esteem,

Yours,

(Signed) LAUDERDALE.

LORD DUPPLIN TO MR OSWALD.

Jan. 15, 1756,
Tuesday Night, 11 *o'clock.*

SIR,

IT is reported that your motion for the papers will be on Friday. I told the Attorney-General that you was desirous of talking with him on that subject before your motion is made; and he is equally desirous of hearing your sentiments. I have therefore desired Sir Thomas Robinson and the Attorney-General to meet you at my house at dinner to-morrow, being Wednesday; and you will be so good as to bring with you the collection which Pownall has made of the representations of the Board of Trade, relating to French encroachments, as well

before as after the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

I have sent to Todd to come to me early to-morrow morning, that I may put off him and Provost Drummond till Thursday, that they may then meet you at dinner at my house, and we can all go to Lord Strange's together in the evening. The Attorney-General is engaged on Thursday, which obliged me to put off the dinner meeting to Thursday, that we might consult about the papers to-morrow, lest the motion, as is rumoured, should come in upon Friday. I am, Sir, with great truth and sincere regard,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) DUPPLIN.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Thursday, April 7, 1757,
near Four o'clock.

DEAR SIR,

THE Duke of Newcastle, who is just set forward, desired me to let you know that he had received a very material letter from Lord Halifax, to which he pays great attention, and upon the subject-matter of which he will talk fully to you on Tuesday at Claremont. But he would not go out of town without letting you know this. I am, my dear Sir, with a very sincere regard,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) DUPPLIN.

THE EARL OF BELHAVEN TO MR OSWALD.

BEEL, *22d Oct.* 1761.

MAY I presume, good Sir, to inquire if anything be as yet done for my friend Lieutenant Thomas Campbell, whose cause you was so kind as to espouse with so much frankness and good-nature. You know that the Duke of N——le and my Lord A——n have both given their promises in his favour, which I hope you'll take a proper opportunity to put them in mind of, if the thing is not already finished;—you must know, Mr Oswald, that I rely much upon your assistance in my cousin's obtaining what he wants. My health continues still upon a precarious footing, and, if it will permit, I don't de-

spair to have the pleasure of waiting upon you in London some time this winter, for my physicians insist much upon my taking exercise, and trying a change of air. ' In the meantime, I offer my best compliments to your friends at Wansor; and am, with great truth and esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most faithful

humble servant,

(Signed) BELHAVEN.

P. S.—The foresaid young gentleman is the same relation to your acquaintance Sir H. D——le as to me; so that I believe, by countenancing him, you will not disoblige the knight.

THE EARL OF LEVEN TO MR OSWALD.

MELVIL, 20*th Jan.* 1764.

SIR,

THOUGH I think there is a great probability that, in the succession to the Duke of Atholl's place, Lord Cathcart will get a more lucrative employment, and that a new Commissioner to the General Assembly will be appointed, I dare not, upon an uncertainty, presume to mention such a thing to Lord Bute or Mr Mackenzie; but, if it was once fixed that it was to be vacant, I would endeavour to recommend myself to their friendship and protection for it, and to my other friends, among whom I have the pleasure of considering you and Mr Elliot.

I hope you will be so good as to for-

give me for taking the liberty to mention this to you; and will take it as a particular favour if you will be so good as to let me know, if such an event does happen, when it is fixed. I am, with great regard and esteem, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) LEVEN.

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

EDINBURGH, *24th Nov.* 1764.

SIR,

I DID myself the pleasure to call upon you yesterday, and had the misfortune to miss you; and to-day I was informed that you was set out. I intended to have spoke to you about the St Andrew's affair, now that Mr Hill is dead. Agreeably to the plan you was so good as to lay down after you was engaged in Mr Hunter's interest, I have reason to believe there will be little or no difficulty in the Town Council's bringing him into the second charge. Mr Dempster is very hearty in it, and wishes to promote it; Mr Lumsdaine and his friends are very anxious about the success of it; and Mr Gillespie is so much

beloved in St Andrew's, that I believe there is scarcely anybody who will embarrass a scheme where his interest and honour are so much concerned. This I intended to have communicated to you, and to know what assurances Mr Hunter's friends would accept of, and whether an act of Council, resolving to present Mr Hunter, in case of Mr Gillespie's promotion, would not be satisfactory. I beg leave to offer my compliments to Mrs Oswald; and I am, with sincere esteem,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
and most humble servant,
(Signed) LEVEN.

LORD CATHCART TO MR OSWALD.

SHAW PARK, *Nov.* 30, 1764.

DEAR SIR,

AT Mr Orrock's desire, I give you this trouble. He has shown me a state of his case he lately sent you. I know him, as you do, to be a very worthy gentleman-like man,—to be very much above taking money for favours from others, and very generous to the poor out of the little he had of his own. I have informed myself, and am assured he was engaged on board of other ships of more value, at the time the affair complained of happened; that, not having it in his power to be present, he placed the proper officers on board, and signed the clearance upon the authority of their report. Why he, who

does not seem guilty of any omission, was broke, or why the officers, who were answerable for their conduct, and their report to him escaped, I do not pretend to guess, never having heard the motives of the Commissioners of the Customs from themselves. All I can say is, that the lot has fallen very unfortunately; and that, both as a man of justice and humanity, and as a friend to Government, and those at the head of it, I shall be very glad if your endeavours in favour of Mr Orrock, —whom I no otherwise know than as an officer of the Customs, very much distinguished for his good character, since I have lived in this part of the country,— meet with success in the manner that will be most convenient. I am very sure your requests to Mr Grenville can have no occasion for any support; but, if my testi-

mony can be of any use, I am very glad to put it into your hands; and am, with the truest regard, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and faithful servant,
(Signed) CATHCART.

THE EARL OF EGLINTOUNE TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR JAMIE,

I HAVE taken the liberty to inclose a proposal in regard to part of the island of Cape Breton, which I beg you will be so good as send to the Board of Trade, (if you do not disapprove of it.)

As there is plenty of coal, and a very good harbour or two, in that part of the island, I intend establishing a fishery and iron-work there. I have a thousand projects in my head, not one of which, in all human probability, will ever succeed;—no matter; they amuse in the meantime, which is always realizing something.

* * * * *

If (without giving yourself much trouble) you could get me an account of the

gross and neat produce of the Excise, in each district, in England and Scotland, it would very much oblige,

Dear Jamie,

Your sincere friend,

(Signed) EGLINTOUNE.

QUEEN STREET,
Jan. 25, 1763.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DEAR JAMIE,

I HAVE just received the inclosed from Hugh Finlay's father. If this ship is condemned, I am persuaded he will be ruined. Pray, help me to save him, if possible, and let me know what further can be done in the affair.

If you come to Glasgow, I shall expect to see you, or never expect to be forgiven: let me know about what time you expect to be there.

Dear Jamie,

Most sincerely and affectionately,

Yours,

(Signed) EGLINTOUNE.

PICCADILLY,
20th ——, 1765.

THE EARL OF HADINTON TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

By appointment of the Directors of the Manage in Edinburgh, I send you the copy of a memorial, which they have transmitted to the First Lord of the Treasury, and to the Secretaries of State, in order that it might be presented to his Majesty.

You are, sir, no stranger to the progress of this institution here, nor to the universal satisfaction which it has given. The Directors are extremely desirous to render it permanent; and they flatter themselves that you will think it so worthy of encouragement, that you will employ your influence in what manner shall

appear to you most proper and effectual, in order to obtain his Majesty's royal aid for this purpose. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) HADINTON.

EDINBURGH,
2d April, 1766.

PRINCIPAL ROBERTSON TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

BY appointment of the Professors in the University of Edinburgh, I take the liberty of sending you a copy of a memorial concerning the Manage, or Riding-School here, which they have transmitted to the First Lord of [the] Treasury and Secretaries of State, in order that it may be laid before his Majesty.

As you have given us the most flattering proof of your approving the plan of education in this University, we presume to hope that you will countenance any endeavour to render that plan more perfect. The University has already derived considerable advantage from the establishment of the Riding-School, and we wish

much to render it permanent. That cannot be attained without his Majesty's royal aid; and we presume to hope that you will employ your good offices, in what manner you shall judge most proper and effectual, in order to attain that royal aid which is necessary for the support of this useful institution. I have the honour to be, with great respect, Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) WILLIAM ROBERTSON,
Principal.

COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH,
April 12, 1766.

THE following letter from an accomplished nobleman, too early lost to his family, his friends, and his country, and whose premature death was a subject of universal lamentation, ably exposes the evils to be apprehended from too minute a division of landed property, and adduces known and irresistible facts in corroboration of the writer's opinions.

THE EARL OF ELGIN TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I'M very sorry to hear you have been so much indisposed this winter, by my friends at Kirkaldy. I have had from time to time information how you were. I'm glad to find, within these few days, that you are better; and I hope this good weather will re-establish your health.

At Lord Perth's desire, and, indeed, with my own inclination, I trouble you

with this.—It has been talked, for some years past, that the Government was to disannex the estates forfeit for the Rebellion 1745, as they have never paid the interest of the debts that were paid on them; and likewise, the tenants have not been so industrious as formerly, or as their neighbours on other estates, owing to the oppression of the factors. But the sale of these estates is now talked of with more confidence, application being made, it's said, for that purpose, that the purchase money may be laid out on the canal projected from [the] Forth to [the] Clyde. That scheme may be very proper, if so the Government think; but it's proposed by some, for the raising a greater sum, and likewise for improving the country, to put up these estates in lots of L.50 per annum.

This, it's thought, would never answer

any good purpose.—It would, in the first place, put it out of the power of the Government, in all time coming, to let those estates fall into the families they formerly belonged to, which would be contrary to the custom that has been practised ever since the Revolution, and which has been found the best method to create friends to the Government, and quietness to the country. Besides, it's said it would be for the improvement of the country to sell them in small lots. That, upon the least reflection, to anybody who knows Scotland, must appear quite otherwise; for the people of L.50 per annum, or thereby, have actually done nothing, and their grounds are, at this minute, the most uncultivated in Scotland. The estate of Kinross is a striking proof of this:—Sir William Bruce, 80 or 90 years ago, feued the whole of it, and a great num-

ber of the farms were about L.50; there is not, on all that estate, a single shilling laid out on any kind of improvement, and, in all appearance, the grounds are just in the situation they were when feued: and, I believe, it will be found to be a fact, that the principal improvements in Scotland have been carried on by men of fortune. If these estates are disannexed, there being no creditors to interfere in the sales, they can be sold, each estate in one lot, at twenty years' purchase of the surveyed rent, the price the estates of Nairn and Gask were sold at, which is a much higher price than the thirty years' purchase put upon the estates lately sold by the York-Building Company, it being only the tack-duty paid by the tacksman, and not by the tenants, at the 1715; and it's well known how easy these tacksmen had these estates, and what considerable

estates have been made from them. When some of the Ministry complained of the great sum paid for the estate of Perth, from the extent of the debts, it was shewn to them that their factors had drawn a considerable part of that sum (whatever they accounted for) out of the estate, and had not paid any considerable part of the interest of the debts due; and, by that means, the interest increased the capital greatly. I would fain hope that the disannexing these estates, and letting them fall back, under a sale, to the families they formerly belonged to, would be a very popular measure in this country, and wished for by the best friends of the Government. When I've the pleasure of seeing you in Scotland, which I'm told will be soon, I shall be glad to have your opinion in this affair, to know what Lord Perth should do; and, in the meantime,

if anything should fall in your way where you could be of use to him, I should take it as a particular favour if you would assist him,—such as hindering the estate of Perth from being sold in small lots, or in advancing the sale of it in whole to the family. I'm very sorry to have detained you so long; but it's a thing I'm very keen on, and hope for your forgiveness.

Lady Elgin joins me in best compliments to you, Mrs Oswald, and your son, as likewise to Mrs Thomas, and all the family. I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and faithful humble servant,
(Signed) ELGIN, &c.

BROOM-HALL,
April 13, 1767.

LORD DESKFOORD* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I REJOICE to see you now in the Treasury, where I have long wished you to be. I flatter myself your being there will, in time, be attended with many advantages to your country, your family, and your friends. I therefore most heartily congratulate you upon your promotion; and am, with the most perfect regard and friendship, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) DESKFOORD.

CASTLE OF BANFF.
Dec. 29, 1759.

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* Lord Deskfoord, afterwards Earl Findlater, was one of the most distinguished Scotch noblemen of the last century. He was of a most benevolent disposition, and indefatigable in promoting every object connected with the interest and improvement of his country.

THE EARL OF FINDLATER TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH, *29th Jan.* 1766.

DEAR SIR,

MR MACPHERSON of the Trustees' Office being about to go to London, the Board of Trustees, sensible of the countenance you have at all times given to the manufacturers of this country, have directed him particularly to wait upon you, and to follow the advice you shall be so good as to give him, with regard to the things of which the manufacturers at present stand in need. We flatter ourselves that, notwithstanding the share you have in matters of much greater importance, yet the matters that he will lay before you may appear to you worthy of your at-

tention. I rejoice to see your son, I think really improved, and just such as I would wish him. Lady Findlater begs that her best respects may be accepted by Mrs Oswald. I have the honour to be, with invariable esteem, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) FINDLATER & SEAFIELD.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

CULLEN HOUSE, 26*th June*, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

WITH a great deal of pleasure, I congratulate you and Mrs Oswald upon your meeting with my young friend, whom I have reason to flatter myself you will find much to your wishes. When he makes out his tour through Scotland, a visit from him here will make us all very happy. If he happens to come by the coast, he will find at Aberdeen, in Collector Ogilvie, the best informer of the trade of the place, and will oblige the Collector much by calling for him, as he retains a most grateful sense of your goodness to his son James, whom I used the freedom, some time ago, to recommend to you at Lon-

don ; and, I think, you was so good as to say that you would interest yourself for him upon his return to Europe. His present situation, and what he wants, you will find in the inclosed letter from his father.

Lady Findlater, Lord Deskfoord, and Mr Ross, all join in offering our most affectionate compliments to all your family. I have the honour to be, with invariable friendship, esteem, and respect,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient

and most humble servant,

(Signed) FINDLATER & SEAFIELD.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

CULLEN HOUSE, *Aug.* 22, 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I AM really apprehensive of my being troublesome to you about my two young sailors in the East India Company's service, who are now both in Britain. James Ogilvie is come home, first mate of the *Duke of Richmond* Indiaman. What he wants is to go out next year, in the same station, and in the same ship. As his behaviour has been good, and he is agreeable to his captain, Mr Coutts, after some intercourse with Mr Moffat, thinks that it may probably be obtained. I rely chiefly upon your interest with Mr Moffat for obtaining it.

My young friend, Rob Ross, is return-

ed to Britain, in the *Duke of Gloucester* Indiaman. He has made two voyages as a midshipman, one to Bengal, and the other to China. I hear him much commended by Captain Haldane, and everybody that knows him. Mr Coutts imagines that he could get him out immediately as a fifth-mate. What we want is a fourth-mate's place for him, to go out this year. If you would be so good as to write a note to Mr Moffat, recommending it, with some earnestness, to get him sent out this year as a fourth-mate, you will oblige me very much. You know my connection with his brothers, and I believe he is a very fine lad.

Lady Findlater, Lord Deskfoord, and Mr Ross, join in respectful compliments to all your family.

I do not perfectly understand things at London; and, in so far as this country

is concerned, they seem not hitherto to be perfectly understood by some of your friends at London, and upon the road to it. But I know that I am, with the most perfect affection and respect, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) FINDLATER & SEAFIELD.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

EDINBURGH, *3d March*, 1768.

DEAR SIR,

I AM glad to hear from Mr Charters so good an account of your health, and to find that your political concerns had been settled with that attention that you are upon every account entitled to. I flatter myself our young friend your son is not the worse for his journey to France. I think he is lucky if he gets off so. I should not think a mixture of the frivolity that is often brought from France any improvement upon his character. I suppose a little tour into Italy will be his next excursion; it furnishes rather an additional fund for elegant amusement in private life, than anything useful. In fol-

lowing out ambitious views in public life, education, as far as possible, should be calculated to qualify a man for both. Lord Deskfoord, and all Mr Oswald's young friends here, remember him with much attachment. I wish him to be acquainted with Lord Hope, who, I am sure, both you and he would like. I had to-day a letter from Lord Hope, containing the following paragraph :—"My uncle Hope writes that he had been to wait on Mr Oswald, to recommend his son to his protection and friendship, Mr Oswald having considerable influence with Mr Hamilton of Innerwick, one of our freeholders, and that he had met with great friendship and openness from Mr Oswald, but is very desirous of your Lordship's recommendation of his son to your friend, which he thinks would have great weight, and will be most agreeable to my father

and me, who have neither of us the honour of being personally acquainted with him." You naturally see my inclination in this matter. I think a connection with my Lord Hopetoun and Lord Hope would be agreeable to you and your son. Any favour you may do them, they may possibly be able to repay in life, upon an after occasion: and I do imagine that your friends the Duke of Queensberry and Mr Stewart Mackenzie have much the same inclinations that I have, with regard to West Lothian. Lady Findlater and Lord Deskfoord join with me in presenting our best respects to Mrs Oswald and your son. I am, with the most affectionate attachment, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) FINDLATER & SEAFIELD.

MR MACKAY TO MR OSWALD.

My Dear Sir,

My son acquainted me by last post of the friendship he has met with at your hands, which lays me under the strongest obligations, and which I shall ever remember with the greatest gratitude. I was absolutely certain, from the knowledge I had of the goodness of your heart, that my application to you would not be in vain; and assure yourself that I shall upon all occasions be ready in making the strongest acknowledgments and the most grateful returns in my power; and that nothing is more desired by me than an opportunity of evincing how much I am my dear Oswald's most obedient

and obliged humble servant,

(Signed) John Mackay.

Strathy, 30*th March*, 1758.

MR KENNET TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I BEG leave to trouble you with this, just to let you know of a good friend you have lately got in Edinburgh. I'm afraid he will scarce seem of much consequence, but I could not omit to do him justice.

Kincaid the bookseller told me some days ago that this was an odd world—nothing but outs and ins to be seen in it; he was sorry for my friend, who had suffered amongst the rest; then giving a shrug with his shoulders, and a nod with his wise head,—"It is good," said he, "to be wise and cannie." I answered, it did not become so great a politician to publish his great secrets in the open streets, but rather to whisper them in secret places.

Had he taken my advice, I should probably have taught him a new set of politics. I have this night got a London Gazette, which will convince his ignorance, and expose his folly and falsehood. I have a good mind to batter* [it] up upon his shop-door. God bless you and your family, and send you many happy years, is the sincere wish of,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) DAVID KENNET.

POST-OFFICE, EDINBURGH,
Dec. 27, 1755.

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* *Anglicè*, paste.

MR GILBERT LAURIE* TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

THE Magistrates and Council of this city have well nigh accomplished what has been so long wanted and wished for—the opening a communication, by a bridge over the North Loch, to the grounds lying to the north of the city, where there are proper areas to erect buildings for the convenience and health of the inhabitants, which have hitherto greatly suffered by reason of their confined situation, and the nature of their present dwelling-houses.

The extension of the royalty has all

* Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

along been considered as an essential part of that plan: upon the faith of this, the town have expended, and are still laying out, such large sums, as must bring an intolerable burden upon its patrimony, unless the houses in the new town are made liable to an equitable proportion of the public taxes.

As such houses cannot be so subjected without the authority of Parliament, the Magistrates and Council, after consulting with the Lords of Session and members of the College of Justice, the gentlemen of the county, the incorporations, and other respectable societies in town, preferred a petition to the House of Commons, in behalf of the community, for liberty to bring in a bill for extending the royalty over the grounds where the new town is to be erected; and this bill the Honourable House have referred, agree-

ably to their forms, to the consideration of a committee.

The bill being so framed as not to infringe upon the rights of any society, or of any individual whatsoever, the Magistrates and Council flattered themselves that the good offices of all their countrymen would not have been wanting for promoting a measure that has the unanimous approbation of the county, and of the abovementioned respectable bodies of men; a measure so beneficial to the public, and on which the well-being of the community, and the property and trade of this ancient city, so much depend; but, to their great surprise, [they] have been informed of an intended opposition to be made to the bill by the Earl of Morton, unless the Magistrates will tamely submit to a very extraordinary demand, not in their power to grant, and

unsupported by any law or reason whatsoever.

I have, at the desire of the Magistrates and community, taken the liberty to send under this cover a copy of his Lordship's proposition, with some observations upon it. They humbly hope, from your known goodness and regard for the public welfare, that you will not suffer the metropolis of Scotland to be oppressed by putting off the extension bill, on a pretence of an alleged claim, that has no manner of relation to that question.

If Lord Morton has any ground of challenge, in name of the public, against the Magistrates and Council, respecting the Register-offices, let him prosecute that claim before a competent court, in which they are ready to join issue with his Lordship, and don't entertain the least doubt of making it appear that such a claim

could only have been reared up from the hope that an attempt to embarrass the extension of the royalty might have obtained what would have been rejected in any other circumstances.

I am, with great respect, Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

(Signed) GILBERT LAURIE.

EDINBURGH,
March 5, 1767.

MR DOUGLAS TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH, *Jan.* 20, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

OUR acquaintance is of a long standing, and I have had many repeated proofs of your real friendship and regard for me and my family.

It's on that old footing I now take the liberty to write to you, and to introduce the bearer, my second son, to your acquaintance. He is a young fellow who, I believe, has his share both of merit and parts: he is bred to the English bar. About two years ago he married a lady from Jamaica, of a tolerable fortune, and a good jointure. He is very soon to go over to that island, not only to settle his affairs, but with an intention to follow out his profession. By letters I have seen

lately from Mrs Douglas, she hints, if her husband could come over vested with a public employment, it would contribute much to get matters amicably settled with his brothers, who are guardians to his son, exclusive of the great advantage of a proper introduction to his profession.

The Duke of Queensberry is applied to on this subject by the Duke of Douglas, and many of his other friends in this country, and I doubt not but his Grace will bestir himself in my son's favour.

I know you can be of great use and service to James; and I hope you will use your interest with the Earl of Halifax, whose recommendation in all affairs of the plantations must have great weight; and my son's letters will show you what openings there are in the island just now. I also beg you will advise him in the steps he is to take in all the different applica-

tions it will be proper for him to make. I hope you will find the young man worthy and deserving of your countenance and protection, which I shall always gratefully acknowledge. In the month of March, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in London, and to return you my most sincere and hearty thanks for the many obligations I lay under to you; and I am, with the greatest regard and esteem, my dear Sir,

Your obliged,
and most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN DOUGLAS.

MR MORRIS TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR time is precious, and therefore my letter shall be short. I waited at home all day for you on Friday, expecting to have seen or heard from you before you set out for Leith to cross the water; but you have business of more consequence to attend to, which, however, I hope by this time is settled to your satisfaction. The excuse of your friend Mr Orrock is admitted; and he stands without any reprimand, except being advised for the future, in common with other water-side officers, to rely upon his own judgment, and not to resign it implicitly to others of older standing. An application having just been made to

me by one of our officers stationed at Edinburgh, in a genteel post, desiring my recommendation of a young spark to him for a clerk, at a salary of L.35 per annum, I have accepted the compliment, and laid my finger upon it; and recollecting, from my own experience of elections, the desire you may probably have to introduce the younger son or nephew of a gentleman, who is one of your electors, into business, I imagine it may not be impertinent to offer it to you at this juncture. At least, you will accept my sincere respect in the tender. There are some uncertainties attending it, as well as some circumstances which are not disagreeable in a junior clerkship. I shall therefore keep it under my thumb, if I am not deceived, till I have your answer, or rather till I wait upon you at Edinburgh on your return; at which time I

desire you will bring your young man with you, if you have one to recommend. He must consider it as an introduction rather than an establishment.

I have the honour to be, with great esteem, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and obliged humble servant,
(Signed) CORBYN MORRIS.

EDINBURGH,
24th Dec. 1751.

P. S.—My compliments wait upon your brother.

MR BARON MAULE* TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH, 15*th Nov.* 1758.

DEAR SIR,

I ASK you ten thousand pardons for being so long of acknowledging the favour of yours of the 22d October; but I delayed it till I should know my brethren's mind about the tack of the teinds of the Priory of St Andrews, which I was a little afraid about, as a new competitor had started up, viz. the University of St Andrews, to enable them to repair their edifice, and augment their library,—both plausible pretences. However, we had it upon the carpet t'other day, where I did not fail to show my inclinations to Mr Paterson, whom you recommended to

* Baron of the Exchequer.

me; and I think three of us, who are his friends, will be able to get it for him even this term, if a delay is not urged upon the account of our chief's absence. This may occasion the postponing of it till next term; but he must prevail then, as I believe none of us will alter.

I am very glad of this, and every other opportunity of convincing you how much I am, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN MAULE.

MR PRESCOT TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

As you are a man of business, I take the liberty of letting you know that I have been applied to by two bodies of people in the city, viz. the silk-weavers and throwsters, and also the hatters' company, to assist them in getting an alteration in the duties on silk and on beaver; and, as their proposals seem to be very reasonable and rational, I have put into writing the particulars of their requests, and have formed a kind of case of each, which I here inclose; at your leisure hours, I beg the favour of you to give them perusal and reflection. If you should think one or both requests proper to be patronized, I would beg, in their behalf, that you would lay them before Lord Bute and the Treasury-Board, or inti-

mate to me, when I see you in the House, what method may be proper to give motion to measures that seem to me to carry public utility, as well as popularity, to those who should undertake them. Before they apply to Lord Bute or to the Board, personally, or by memorial, they would be desirous of knowing, through your channel, how probable such an application would be to meet protection. For my part, I have not sought this office of intercessor, but I should be glad to serve two useful bodies of manufacturers, with whom I have connections in trade; and, on this account, I doubt not that you'll excuse the liberty taken by one who has the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) GEORGE PRESCOT.

COLEMAN STREET,
9th March, 1763.

SIR JAMES DUNBAR TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

SHOULD you receive this in the hurry of business at the Treasury, or of some important national concern, forget not, I beseech you, the distress of an old acquaintance, but put it into your pocket, and give it a serious review at a leisure hour, for 'tis a serious affair to me, who am a husband and a father, and have nothing to support my family but economy in managing the small encumbered fortune I am possessed of, as this is not the only loss I am like to sustain by acts of friendship to others, which must now, in that way, cease.

Several letters have I troubled you with on this very disagreeable subject,

which is likely to have a very unfavourable issue. I can expect no farther respite from the Commissioners of Excise than next Exchequer-term, which commences the beginning of February, and this is all the time that is left me to flatter myself with some relief from your generous efforts.

I need say no more, conscious of the goodness of your heart and benevolent disposition. I remain, with an unfeigned esteem and regard, Sir,

Your most obedient,
most humble servant,
(Signed) JAMES DUNBAR.

DUNBAR-HOUSE,
15*th Dec.* 1762.

MR COCHRANE TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

YOUR assiduity and attention to public affairs, and what concerns your country, give you the trouble of frequent applications. I am requested, by our merchants and proprietors of iron-works here, to submit what follows to your consideration.

They are advised of your House having agreed to take off the duty on all pig-iron imported from our American colonies to Britain, and, to please the proprietors of iron-forges and wood-lands in England, on all iron imported from America to London only, as no English iron was ever carried to that market, and what is brought thither interferes solely with the foreign.

In Scotland, we never used the smallest quantity of English iron: our consumpt, which is considerable, is supplied from Sweden and Russia, where the price has of late greatly risen; it is, for the most part, bought for bills, and imported in foreign bottoms; (the manager of our iron-factory tells me they bring in 400 tons yearly, all purchased that way.) Were we allowed to import American iron duty-free, it would save our country very great sums, and no way hurt the landed interest; it would lower the price of iron, and consequently of all our manufactories, which would increase the consumpt and sale; it would serve for ballast to our ships from North America, and, when tobacco is scarce, fill up part of the tonnage; would increase our exports, and no way interfere with our neighbours in the south; all which, sir,

I submit to your consideration, and whether an amendment of this [kind] could be got, allowing bar-iron from our colonies to be imported to Scotland duty-free. Shall I not have the pleasure of making the acknowledgments of our Corporation this next summer to you personally? I hope little Master is in a thriving way. I shall offer no apology; and assure you of my being, with great regard,

dear Sir,

Your most obedient

and very humble servant,

(Signed) ANDREW COCHRANE.

G——, *30th March*, 1750.

I have presumed to write the Duke of Argyll, our patron.

MR PETER BLAIR TO MR OSWALD.

COVENTRY, NEW YORK, *Oct.* 13, 1762.

SIR,

As the Stamp-Act has occasioned commotions in America that can hardly enter into the imagination of a member of the British Parliament, I have taken the liberty of inclosing you a political paper, that was publicly sold here, to give you some idea, when compared with the public papers of the different provinces, to what length they carry their threats; for, as to the Parliament of Britain having no authority internally to tax America, it is now become a favourite and common topic of conversation: the stamp-officers in most of the provinces have resigned; amongst others, Mr M'Iven of York. I wrote lately to Dr John Blair on that

head, and entreated his influence to get me appointed; [I] would humbly beg yours, but has [that I have] no pretensions to it, except that of having received many favours may be reckoned one. If agreeable, or not troublesome, [I] shall regularly send you all the political writings that appear. The late Order of Council for admitting of appeals from the judgment of a jury, on the full merits of a cause, has, for some days, drowned all the noise about the Stamp-Act; and really many of the most sensible, and those of the greatest property, thoroughly convinced of the necessity of complying with, and the bad consequences that must follow their attempting to do any business without [it,] begin seriously to wish that all disturbance about it was entirely dropt, as, from the nature of the law, it must enforce itself. Commissioners from

the different provinces are met at York to consider of the interest of the colonies; but there is already a jealousy amongst them, and one [is] suspected of showing too much favour to Britain; on which account, I suppose, it may increase; and they do very little, if anything.

I am, with the utmost respect, Sir,

Your most obliged

and most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) PETER BLAIR.

MR THOMAS CUMMING TO MR OSWALD.

My only Friend,

This morning I called in Great George Street, (as usual,) to no purpose; the porter told me —— —— in the country. It may be so. When I returned home, I sent a letter thither, in which I inclosed the Attorney's two letters, with that of the Trustees. All the mention I made of thy name was, that I had called, in obedience *to thy repeated advice.* If those letters produce no good effect, he gives me up!——Yes, and most effectually convinces me, that the best man on earth, when in a certain office, is under a physical necessity of being the most immoral! Then shall I think, and be (for aught I know) tempted to say, that a Secretary of

State may be saved as—(for instance, a W. P. or ——)—a private person, but go to H.—— as an officer of the Crown! If that be really the case, God preserve thee from the Seals! for thou canst not have a better heart than I know is in —— or ——.

Thursday hastens!—What shall I do? I am determined to be published (gazetted) and to publish. I cannot fly. Nor shall the world longer think me favoured by a pension. On Wednesday morning I shall call on thee, in hopes of admission.

Thy inexpressibly perplexed friend,

(Signed) THOMAS CUMMING.

SURRY STREET,

11*th June.*

MR ROBERT ALEXANDER TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

IT was with very singular satisfaction that I came to know, during my residence in the south of France, of your being promoted to the office of one of the Commissioners of Trade; and, if I have not sooner made you my compliments on that occasion, I beg you will do me the justice to believe that it is not because I take a less part in your prosperity than other friends. I can affirm, without flattery, that no man has a greater personal regard for you than I have, and consequently none can be more affected with whatever good or bad fortune shall happen to befall you. But, besides all this,

I have the strongest reason, both as a merchant and a good countryman, to rejoice at your promotion to this office in particular, since it very much concerns the public to have all employments filled up by men of capacity and application to business, so more especially those which relate to the trade and navigation of the kingdom, upon which so much depends.

As for myself, since I left London, I have visited, with some attention I think, all the considerable trading towns in France, excepting Nantz, and have endeavoured to make myself as much master as possible of the nature of their commerce; and, though I found greater difficulty than I imagined in procuring proper information, yet I flatter myself that I have not altogether lost my time. I hope some time or other to be able to entertain you fully on this subject; but, in

the meantime, I shall only observe, that the merchants in France are more remarkable for their application and attention to business, than for greatness of views, few or none of them having any knowledge of trade beyond the common routine of their business. I do not pretend that this observation is universally true, but, in general, I believe it will be found so. Their West India trade is presently very unprofitable, and even their Canada trade, which, until this year, has always been very successful, has this year produced a loss of about 15 per cent on the returns of furs, though some of the Canada merchants saved themselves, by having some of their returns in jansin. This is a root, in appearance, not unlike ginger, and is hot, though not quite so violent. It was, a few years ago, of little or no value, but sold this year at 30 per cent, that is,

about a guinea and a half English. It is made use of in Paris, for some great tables, in sauces, but the greatest consumption is for the East Indies. It would, I think, be very worthy of inquiry whether we have no such root in our northern colonies. Their Turkey trade is in a very prosperous situation; and lately, I hear, there has been a very circumstantial state of that trade sent over to the Court of France, by which it appears that their proportion of the trade is much beyond ours. I was for some time in hopes of obtaining a copy of that paper, for which I would not have grudged money, but I am afraid I shall be disappointed.

I know not whether our importations of indigo are become considerable since I left England, but surely the opportunity never was fairer for recovering that valuable branch of commerce, from the ex-

cessive scarcity of this commodity, both in St Domingo and Martinique, for these two years past, and the monstrous price it has risen to in France for these fourteen or fifteen months past.

I shall be extremely desirous to have the occasion to serve you, either while I am in trade or anywhere else; and I beg, once for all, that, if you think I can be of use to you in any manner of way, not to regret my trouble;—I protest it is the greatest pleasure you can do me. You gave me a commission to procure you M. l'Abbé St Pierre's works, which I shall do, and bring along with me; but you likewise gave me orders about some of French ordonnances, and I find I have lost the note I had made of it. I desire, therefore, that you will be so kind as to advise me what ordonnances you meant, and I shall take care to procure them. I

shall not be long here, and therefore I wish you may favour me with a line as soon as you can, to the care of Mr Isaac Vernet, banquier in Paris. From this I set out for Holland, which will finish my travels.

I beg leave to offer my most respectful compliments to the ladies, and to your friend Mr Ferguson, and his lady; for all whom I shall always retain the greatest esteem; as also to your brothers; and I am, with all the ardour imaginable,

Dear Sir,

Your most humble servant,

(Signed) ROBERT ALEXANDER.

PARIS, *30th Aug.* 1752.

MR DOUGLAS TO MR OSWALD.

KEW, *Sunday noon, May 5.*

SIR,

MY brother wishes much that you'd be pleased to embrace the first opportunity of speaking to Lord Egmont about his affair, (his memorial having been given in some time,) and, in particular, about the paper, (of which your ideas are very just) which, after having been rejected by the court-martial, was sent to the Admiralty,—as it appears, with a malicious intent, and, though unsuccessfully, calculated to bias the Board's opinion as to the rectitude of the sentence, which its author saw must acquit the memorialist with honour; or to hurt him in the private esteem of their Lordships; or, (it would

seem,) rather than not be revenged at all of his innocence, at least to prejudice any future Board against him, and any other person into whose hands such a paper might fall. For, surely, from several expressions therein used,—viz. "grasping at a twig in the time of danger,"—"absent without leave,"—"to bring him to quarters, which no Admiralty-order could do,"—no one would think that the person thus pointed at had a good cause in hand; that, while absent, he was under a sick-certificate, in the commanding-officer's hands; or, that his well-attested sickness was then such as rendered it impossible for him to repair to quarters, (and, of course, to Jamaica,) without endangering his life. Upon the whole, any person knowing my brother's story from the paper inquisition only, would rather think that he had been broke than acquitted by the sentence of

a court-martial; and by no means that he had been ever remarkable in his corps for his steady and uninterrupted adherence to (often anticipating) his duty, during the whole course of the last (and preceding) war,—so unworthily false and malicious are the innuendoes it conveys! My brother's intention is to act with the said paper in the way you were yesterday kind enough to suggest to me, rather than in a public way with the Board.

I sincerely wish the speedy recovery of your health, precious to so many; and, flattering myself with the hopes of soon having the honour of your intended visit to these gardens, I am, with the most profound respect, Sir,

Your most obliged
and most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) CHARLES DOUGLAS.

MR ALLAN MACDONALD TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I REPENTED sorely of the liberty I assumed, on my distress in Ireland, of troubling you with a long letter: distress alone could force me to the freedom with any great man, after the fatal experience I had, in course of what I suffered in the cause of liberty, of the promise and engagements of the great being but wind. I wanted a link in the great chain to preferment, or bread for my numerous family. Without flattery, at this distance, I except you, good sir, from this almost general rule. You generously, when in the Treasury, sympathized with my unmerited misfortunes: I will ever retain a becoming sense of your manner of hear-

ing my imperfect, though sincere complaint. In consequence of your humanity, I had frequent thoughts, since I came to this place, in the honourable, though unprofitable and expensive, station of commandant, of committing to writing, for your perusal in a spare moment, any little remarks that might fall under my observation, with regard to the important branch of business, peculiar to Newfoundland, St John's in particular, especially as I found it the object of regard so very much in the senate. But, when I reflected on my misfortune of being very little known to you, or, indeed, to any person of weight; when I considered your great application to, and universal knowledge of, the service of your country in all its branches, particularly this, when at the Board of Trade and Plantations; when I saw how very indefatigably our present Governor, Mr

Palliser, exerted himself to acquire a knowledge scarcely to be attained in the course of part of three summers; and when I considered seriously, that, in offering some humble hints, that might contribute to remove, in some degree, some of the evils that have crept in here, and that retard the progress of the fishery, more than in distant times, I might drop something disagreeable to plans adopted by people in power,—I laid aside all thoughts of adhering to my first resolution. In the course of another summer and winter, I flatter myself I could collect something amusing at least. I have no doubt but that many of the iniquitous practices that have stolen in here may be considerably removed in time, if Mr Palliser's judgment is properly attended to. Certain it is, that the increase of seamen here is more obstructed now than would

be expedient in time of war, when seamen are wanted. Ever since curiosity led me to look into the supplies granted yearly by Parliament, I found considerable sums allotted for Newfoundland; I have been at a loss, since I commanded a small garrison of 90 men here, the capital place, to find for what uses this money could be applied. Placentia, a small fort, where there is an equal number, is the only other place on the island where troops are stationed. It would be improper in an officer to say anything with regard to fortifications, implements of war, barracks, &c. to any other than his commanders, to whom reports of that kind are only due. When the French took this place, in 1762, they landed at the distance of 30 miles, and were obliged to march through thick and almost inaccessible woods, where 50 men, well conducted, with plenty of provisions,

and the fort in their rear, could easily force them back to their ships, or totally destroy them, before they could advance two-thirds of their way to St John's. Such is the nature of this place, and the great scarcity and dearness of the necessaries of life, except fish and salt pork, that officers, very probably, before now, who had no other support than their pay, were forced into some sort of clandestine traffic to purchase or procure a livelihood. They must of course, for the sake of secrecy, join privately with some of the monopolizing store-keepers here, who, in spite of law, wallow in luxury, on the sweat of the slavish fishermen, not one of whom, in a thousand, is able to purchase a half-share of a single shallop, after many years drudgery. I am well assured, by such of the oldest of the inhabitants as can be depended on, that the fisheries

flourished much more 50 years ago than at present; owing entirely to the wicked practices of the merchants, store-keepers, and masters, in the extravagant prices—(for example, 700 per cent on rum, the *materia medica* here)—at which all goods are sold. These merchants, store-keepers, in an open place, must fall the first sacrifice to an enemy on an invasion: so sensible are they of this, that they would not only refuse to fight, even *pro aris et focis*, but obstruct an officer in the discharge of his trust, and even force him to capitulate on the terms of security to their rich stores. This, I apprehend, was lately the case, when this place surrendered without a blow. Should an officer, in time of war, have a due spirit to withstand the presents and artifices of these monopolizers, and exert himself as duty required, nothing else than private hints and me-

naces of the powerful merchant-interest in Bristol, Liverpool, &c. would ensue; and, on the most trifling cause of complaint, such as the removing a hut, that could cover an approaching enemy, offer to go to law with an officer, and perhaps ruin him, and leave him at the mercy of his country for redress. The country—at least a leading party of interest—must not be offended. The justices over this island must, according to the present system, be merchants or store-keepers. In the absence of the governor and his delegate, from October to July or August, or even September, what justice must a poor fisherman meet with from a combination? I will venture to affirm, that there is not a single man, from the first boat-keeper to the meanest boy hired for the season for L.4, but would cheerfully wish for a clause of an act of Parliament,

taxing them at 5*s.* each a-year, (half the money would be more than sufficient,) for the support of independent judges, who might be circularly removed once in three years, or totally, according to their conduct. These justices, after a little practice, could lead a governor, perhaps a young captain in the navy, appointed by interest to a lucrative employment, without much more experience in business than can be acquired by a voyage to the Mediterranean, and visiting the courts of Italy, entering on his office, into a little more knowledge of his charge than he could have by depending on a junto of mercenary people, naturally having an eye to their own great interest.

I have heard that plans of forts have been taken here, calculated, at the first expense, at L.200,000. How far fortifications and strong garrisons may contri-

bute to promote and protect the fishery, I am not statesman or engineer enough to find out: most certainly the safety of this very extensive island depends solely on our navy. If an enemy's fleet is stronger on this coast, our fisheries must fall, and, of course, our forts. The merchants, who could supply provisions, and who are absolute masters of the Protestant servants, as observed already, will not fight, if they can obtain a security for their rich stores. The Roman Catholics, who are considerably more numerous, and who, perhaps, are intolerably oppressed in some respects, and brow-beaten, would be, perhaps, fond of the appearance of a change. So that no land force can be much depended on, with regard to the absolute safety of Newfoundland.

How far the laws, with regard to the importation of manufactures other than

British, are, or can, at present, be observed, I will not take upon me to say, sooner than I have some experience of what the new Custom-House, if properly supported, will be obliged to do. I do not doubt much but that Irish woollens, soap, leather, &c. are used in Newfoundland. Very probably quantities of wine, other than Madeira and [*illegible*] are imported and exported this island; but the word is, "they are entered in England." How far adventurers are deterred from coming here, by the old standers, as commonly called, claiming an ancient property of too great an extent, more than they can personally occupy, and exacting a rent, not to be indemnified by the profits, I will not say.

How far, or how long, green men, or youngsters, can be procured, on seeing the old men not fond of returning, or

stealing away, if practicable, to the West Indies and the continent, I am not at liberty to hint. How far debaucheries and excess are encouraged by the monopolizing store-keepers, may not be evident. How far the salutary laws, with regard to shares in companies and boats, can be put in practice, while the power of the store-keeper is so great in the supplies, may be clearly judged. What evils the paying of wages in bills of exchange here, and the decoying away these bills for ready money, at perhaps half value, by the wicked bill-catchers, employed privately to drink with and coax the poor fishermen servants, in the bacchanal season, produce, is beyond description. How great an evil the retailing of rum, even in the great stores, produces—How far the trusting servants, who cannot keep their own accounts, and who, at last, are

obliged to purloin the goods, and waste the time of their masters, &c., I'll not say.

The fear of differing from people of greater abilities, and better judgment than a little common sense and experience can suggest to me, interferes with a humble offer of some hints for a remedy to those evils. But why should I fear now to offend in the way of truth more than ever? I can scarcely suffer more than I do at present, struggling with great difficulties, in supporting a wife and numerous family on my bare pay here, without any additional allowance, such as, by his Majesty's gracious favour, is settled on all the officers in America commanding garrisons and out-posts, I and the Placentia officer only excepted. I withstood the importunity of General Gage and Governor Palliser for a year, in soliciting for this extra allowance. They pi-

tied my situation ; I yielded now, and, in consequence, sent a memorial to the Secretary at War, humbly requesting his favourable consideration, and his laying our case before his Majesty.—Our bank here, without any regard to our necessities, ought to be attended to.—I dare say the memorial will never be read. Notwithstanding of my fears, if I am honoured with your commands or queries regarding the fisheries, &c., I will exert my utmost ability in coming at the truth of every particular, and transmit it to you in a more methodical manner than this confused letter, forced from me by the tears of a distressed faithful companion for life, at a time when I laid aside all thoughts of bettering my fortune, and thought of resigning myself cheerfully to my fate, in a cursed climate, providing nothing agreeable.

I believe the French punctually observe the articles that regard Newfoundland in the treaty of Utrecht, and the last treaty, thanks to the unwearied diligence and activity of the gentlemen entrusted with the safety of the island.

May the God that protected me hitherto from the attempts of my powerful enemies preserve my friends, and you in particular.

I have the honour to be, with due respect, Sir,

Your most obedient
and much obliged humble servant,
(Signed) ALLAN MACDONALD

FORT WILLIAM,
IN ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,
Dec. 12, 1766.

REV. DR ALEXANDER WEBSTER* TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

MY good friend Mr Charters acquainted me that he had wrote to you in my favour, and transmitted two memorandums; the one respecting a manuscript, which I hope you will accept of, so soon as the copy can be prepared; the other respecting my son James. I would not have presumed to trouble you more on that subject; but Mr Charters thinks it necessary that I should inform you, that, in consequence of Mr Baron Mure's re-

* The framer of the scheme of the Widows' Fund for the Clergy of Scotland, which has been productive of so much benefit to that reverend Body, and in the formation of which Mr Oswald took a warm and friendly interest.

commendation, Lord Bute, or Mr Mackenzie, had recommended my son to Lord Ligonier for a company in October last. It would seem that Lord Ligonier has either forgot, or has not mentioned to his Majesty by whom he was recommended, for nothing has yet been done. The memorial transmitted by Mr Charters informs you of my son's character; the copy of the letter here inclosed, the original of which was sent to Mr M'Kenzie, as it was not delivered to Lord Barrington, because I left London before it came to hand, shows that I have some title to plead for preferment to my son; and, as I was chaplain to the Prince of Wales, his Majesty's royal father, would willingly flatter myself my family will not be altogether overlooked.

Mr Hyndman, his Majesty's Almoner, died on Tuesday last: the salary is about

L.40 per annum, and some small perquisites given to the Almoner's depute. I have wrote by this post to Mr M'Kenzie, that I have not presumed to trouble Lord Bute respecting this matter, as a company to my son is what I have much more at heart than my own personal interest.

Permit me, dear sir, after returning you humble and hearty thanks for your kind offices to my son John, to beg you would talk with Mr M'Kenzie about James, and give that assistance which may be necessary for procuring a company to him, at least in some of the regiments lately raised, which are daily falling vacant, and given even to persons who have never been in any service.

Your goodness shall at all times be most gratefully remembered by him who wishes for nothing more than an opportunity to testify to the world that he has

the honour to be, with the highest esteem and respect, dear Sir,

Your much obliged
and most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) ALEXANDER WEBSTER.

EDINBURGH,
Aug. 12, 1762.

MR SAMUEL GARBETT TO MR OSWALD.

BIRMINGHAM, *Feb.* 23, 1765.

SIR,

THERE is a petition presented to the House of Commons, from Stirlingshire in Scotland, for a law to improve the navigation of the river Carron, and to establish a good road in that narrow part between the east and west seas, from the rivers Forth to Clyde. If an act of Parliament should be granted, the land-carriage will be one-third shorter than the track at present used, and the price will immediately be reduced from thirty to twenty shillings a-ton; which is not only a material object to the dealers in iron, timber, and heavy goods, but the valuable commodities which, to a prodigious amount, pass between Glasgow and Lon-

don, are less exposed in open carts, and have quicker dispatch.

I flatter myself you will remember that my friend Mr Ramsay did me the honour to introduce me to you at Carron, and that you were pleased to permit me to apply to you whenever you could be of use to me: as the navigation of the Carron, and the condition of the roads from thence to Glasgow, is a matter of great importance to the undertakings I have in Scotland, and is, besides, a considerable national convenience, I hope you'll pardon this liberty, and honour me with your patronage. I flatter myself there will not be any opposition, as the gentlemen, at their public meetings, were nearly unanimous; and, though some few observed that our works had raised the price of provisions and of labour, and that we ought to keep the roads in condition at

our own expense, yet I cannot suppose gentlemen will oppose having the power to improve a navigation, and to make roads, and dispose of the tolls thereon in any way they themselves may think proper; for, among the many trustees named, we only beg the following may appear, viz.—Samuel Garbett of Kinnaird, Francis Garbett of Carron, Charles Gascoigne of Westerton, and William Cadell, jun. of Carronhill, Stirlingshire. The latter is our residing partner, who hath a L.5000 share in the works, and the other two are my only son, and son-in-law.

I hope it will be so worded, that the commissioners may have power to make the track in any manner they please, provided they do not break through any policy, and make such allowance for damages as may be finally determined by the Justices of the county at the general

quarter-sessions,—which I mention, as there hath sometimes difficulties occurred, from troublesome heritors, who opposed the tracks being made in the most convenient manner, because the commissioners had not a proper latitude to take the track out of the exact line described in the act of Parliament. I blush to give you this trouble, and, indeed, I would not have done it, if it had not been of considerable importance to my undertakings, and if I was not convinced the plan will prove a public good.

I am, with great respect, Sir,

Your most humble

and most obedient servant,

(Signed) SAMUEL GARBETT.

MR HUGH GRÆME TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE often given you trouble in my affairs, and must always look upon you as the man I have most to trust to, from your well-known capacity in the affairs of the colonies, and the weight you have thereby acquired at home.

I need not repeat my story: every man in the Ministry owns my case is hard, but that everything in those islands was disposed of. Now, it is certain, things are to dispose of at this juncture still; viz.—commissioners for disposing of the lands, and what I am more capable of than of anything else. My usefulness in that part of the world is very strongly attested by Admirals Rodney and Douglas,

Governors Melville and Dalrymple, all of them on the spot but Dalrymple.

Yet I shall be neglected for want of some man of weight to make a point of it, or take me upon his shoulders; and, if you will not do that, I must fall. If I have almost every favourable circumstance upon my side, a man of honour may the more readily take the lift, as it must have a favourable appearance to everybody.

What makes me the more anxious is, that I cannot now support this cold climate, and must therefore go out at any rate. I was always looked upon there as a man of the first consequence and utility. Nobody can think I was so hardly used without some good causes, which must reflect upon me, and I shall be lower in appearance than the level of my own clerks formerly, a thing not very comfortable at my years.

I write you this to save your time only, as a visit might consume more of it; and have the honour to be, with truth, respect, and esteem, dear Sir,

Your most obedient
and most humble servant,
(Signed) HUGH GRÆME.

SACKVILLE STREET,
Oct. 10, 1763.

The General offers you his best respects, and is determined to wait on you soon, since you will not take the chance of a dinner with him in town.

MR GEORGE ROSS TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I SEND this, to know if you have had an opportunity of being with the Secretary at War, on the subject of procuring your friend Lieutenant-Colonel St Clair leave to sell; because my friend, Major Paterson, who agreed to be the purchaser, is pressed for time, his regiment being one of those ordered for Gibraltar: and, if you have not seen Mr Ellis, I must beg you to write him an ostensible letter, which I will deliver him. You can tell him, what consists with my knowledge, that he served twenty-three years as an officer, (twenty-one years service entitles a soldier to Chelsea,) twice in America, as major and lieutenant-colonel; that,

though General St Clair left him a landed estate, he left it subject to encumbrances, having left his ready money to Sir Henry Erskine. These considerations justify his request of *selling*, though he has not purchased, more especially that the same favour has been granted to Lieut.-Colonel Young of the 46th, Lieut.-Colonel Par of the 4th, Lieut.-Colonel Philips of the 9th, Lieut.-Colonel Goodrick of the 25th, Lieut.-Colonel Adie of the 68th, Lieut.-Colonel Shebear of the 108th, and Lieut.-Colonel Tisdale of the 48th, and to many others that I cannot recollect, as well as to many, nay, to a crowd of majors, who did not purchase. This being the case, I think Mr St Clair will have reason to think himself neglected, if a proper representation be not made of them: he is acquainted with the steps already taken, as well as with your dispo-

sition to assist him on this occasion; and, for my own part, I should be extremely happy were his request granted on your application, which I flatter myself will be the case, if you represent those matters to Mr Ellis, to whom I shall deliver your letter.

Colonel Forrester left your brother in very good health, on his march to Marlborough, where he disbands his regiment.

I am, with a very sincere regard,

Dear Sir,

Your much obliged

and faithful humble servant,

(Signed) GEORGE ROSS.

CONDUIT STREET,
Wednesday, 25th May, 1763.

MR GEORGE INNES TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

YOUR goodness to me on former occasions has induced me to take the liberty of troubling you upon this.

Yesterday died here, suddenly, Mr Young, solicitor of the stamp-duties for this country, an office only of L.50 per annum salary, but, by an oversight in framing the ale-licence law for Scotland, it has been considerable since these licences took place in this country. However, the amendment which passed last session but one will soon bring it down again to its primitive original, the bare salary.

As it was in and through your generous recommendation of me to Lord Bute

that his Lordship was pleased to procure for me the inspectorship of this branch of the revenue, I have presumed upon your goodness for the like recommendation in my favour for this vacancy, which, if I am so happy as to be honoured with, I have no doubt about succeeding.

I cannot be sure but that Mr Menzies, the collector of our duties, may be a candidate for the succession, and, as he is Lord Privy-Seal's depute, and his ordinary man of business, in that case I have no reason to hope for success, nor should I wish to be in the way of any of his Lordship's measures, as he has been pleased to do me [the] honour to say several kind and obliging things of me; nor would I wish to counteract even Mr Menzies himself, with whom I live extremely well, but I think there is a great chance that his friends may not think it worthy of

asking for him, which is the reason of my presuming to trouble you with so early intelligence of the vacancy. I ought, no doubt, to conclude with a proper apology for this freedom, but, as there is none adequate to the liberty, I must rely on your usual goodness to be forgiven; and, with the greatest esteem and regard, I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) GEORGE INNES.

EDINBURGH,
9th Feb. 1767.

MR ROBERT ORD* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I FANCY you will not take it amiss to be informed of a matter which is to come before your Board, I hope by next post, and with which possibly you may not otherwise be so well acquainted as one of your country and mine would choose to be.

The powers the Barons of Exchequer have here, as a sort of Treasury-Board under yours, are all by Privy-Seals, which, ceasing by the demise of the Crown, are necessarily to be renewed. Those Privy-Seals are three:—the first for payment of the establishment, and such other

* Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Scotland.

sums as his Majesty shall grant warrants for; the second, for passing and compounding signatures, disposing vacant stipends, granting leases of bishops' tithes, and presenting bursars; and the third, for compounding fines and forfeitures upon seizures and coast-bonds.

Upon the death of King George I. the Barons wrote up to the Treasury for a renewal of those powers; but the Treasury sent them down a warrant for an interim Privy-Seal, dated 6th July, 1727, empowering them to act in everything as they had acted under the Privy-Seals of George I. till his Majesty should signify his pleasure to the contrary: under this they acted for about a twelvemonth, and then came the warrants for the three Privy-Seals above-mentioned, in the same manner as they had usually had them before that time.

Having got my dispersed brethren together as soon as I could, we have come to a resolution to lay this whole affair before the Treasury, and to leave it to their Lordships to send us either the three usual Privy-Seals, or an interim one, as they shall think proper; and, as any delay would be very inconvenient,—for many necessary proceedings are stopt, and we who live upon our salaries must either find credit or fast till we get this embargo taken off the last quarter's establishment,—we intend to send their Lordships everything that may enable them to send us either the one or the other kind of power, as soon as they shall have the least leisure to look into such an affair;—that is, copies of the three usual Privy-Seals; the draughts for three new ones, with the necessary alterations, and reasons for such alterations; and a copy

of the interim Privy-Seal, a draught for a new one, and the reasons for the alterations made in it too: but we shall desire to avoid the interim one, if it can be done with convenience; and, indeed, I think there are strong reasons against it;—its putting off business, instead of doing it at the proper time; its leaving powers of great consequence to the construction of general, and perhaps uncertain, words, whereas they should be described with the utmost precision; and it appears to me like parties entering into articles, when they might as easily make a final settlement or conveyance.—This is what I have always abhorred, and perhaps creates half the business of the Court of Chancery.

The sending such a number of papers, I fear, may make this affair appear at first long and intricate, but if looked into,

even in the most cursory manner, I am satisfied will tend greatly to shorten and clear it; and, for the same purpose, you may make what use you please of this letter—either show it to anybody, or keep it entirely to yourself.

I am, Sir,
Your most obliged
and obedient humble servant,
(Signed) ROBERT ORD.

If you should hear anything said about the Morpeth election, where Lord Galway, on behalf of his son, is attacking Lord Carlisle's interest, upon which my son is a candidate, I hope you will stand my friend. I claim it only upon the foot of my being a better Scotsman than my antagonist.

MR WEDDERBURN* TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH, *June* 15, 1754.

SIR,

I HOPE I write to you at a time when your desire to befriend me will be attended with the least inconvenience to yourself, because I have delayed it till I imagined the town might be pretty empty. The steps that have been already taken in my father's application to the Lords of the Treasury cannot be more briefly explained than in the paper I have taken the liberty to enclose. The situation it now stands in is this:—Mr West had the goodness to mention it to Mr Pelham a little time before his death, and, from

* Afterwards Lord High Chancellor of England, and Earl of Rosslyn.

what he then told me, I am persuaded that accident alone (which it is indecent to mention as a private misfortune) prevented the success of it at that time. Mr West always showed himself so friendly to me, that I should hope, as I have presumed to apply to him again, he will take an opportunity of supporting it anew; and he seemed so convinced of the reasonableness, I had almost said the justice, of it, that I trust his good offices cannot want effect. Indeed, there can be scarcely any reason imagined why an additional salary should not be granted to the secretary, that was granted to the comptroller and cashier, who applied before him, and was also granted to the auditor, who applied after him. The business of the office is known by everybody to be made greater, and the Lords of the Treasury have a very clear proof that no

part of it has ever been neglected. In such circumstances, may not the refusing a favour bear some resemblance to the imposing a hardship?

There is also this particular circumstance occurs, that the office of secretary, having been, from the Union till my father got it, united to that of solicitor, the divided salary, when they came to be separated, was much smaller, in proportion to the business, than that of any of the other officers, which makes the reason for an augmentation the stronger.

I am ashamed to have troubled you with so long a letter; but, as upon the success of my father's application at present my future establishment may very much depend, I am greatly interested in it. Be the fate of it as it may, I have had the satisfaction to receive a mark of your friendship that does me great ho-

nour. Gratitude is the only return I can now make: if it ever be in my power to make a more effectual one, I shall have a still greater satisfaction to prove myself

Your faithful
humble servant,
(Signed) ALEX. WEDDERBURN.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dear Sir,

As soon as I was able, after receiving yours, I set out for town, because the explanation I wanted could not so easily be had by letters. I arrived to-day, and have seen our friend. He has no wish but that the best may be done for the interest of my sister and his family; what that may be is at present difficult enough to decide. One thing, however, is clear, that every endeavour should be used to preserve and strengthen that interest, which has been considered here as not

worth the asking. On that plan, I shall set out immediately for Scotland. If I was acting only for myself, I should follow no other guide at present but resentment, which, I own, I feel in the strongest degree; but I shall submit myself entirely to your direction, and then my conduct, I am sure, will be proper; and I know that whatever we resolve upon will meet with approbation. One idea has occurred to me, that if Colonel St Clair could be persuaded to stand, he would be the most unexceptionable candidate of any. I have not yet mentioned this to anybody, but I shall before I set out, and only take the liberty of suggesting it now for your consideration before we meet, as you may possibly have some means of sounding his inclinations, without any direct proposal. I hope to be in

Edinburgh on Monday at farthest; and ever am, dear Sir,

Your most faithful
and obedient humble servant,
(Signed) AL. WEDDERBURN.

LONDON,
Sept. 3, 1765.

I had the pleasure to find Lady Erskine in a very good way.

MR DALRYMPLE* TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

MY friend, Mr Fraser, has been so good as to inform me how much you have interested yourself in my behalf. Your doing so touches me the more, that I had very little claim for any such favour, more than what all the world has, that is, an esteem and reverence, which all the world has taught me to have, for your character; if any other thing makes me think I deserved it, it is, that I confess you are one of the few whom I would not only wish, but have an ambition, to be obliged to.

We are told here that the Sheriffship

* Afterwards Sir John Dalrymple, Bart. He was admitted a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1748; appointed one of the Barons of Exchequer in Scotland in 1776; and was author of several interesting works, particularly "Memoirs of Great Britain and Ireland," 3 vols. He died in 1810, at a very advanced age.

of Murray is promised away. Whether that is so or not, you will best know; but, in case it is, I have been advised to turn the considerable interest I have had into a general application for the first of these Sheriffships that falls.

My father, Sir William, has got a letter from Ned Walpole, warm and open: he sets no value on his interest, but, at the same time, promises to use it with Mr Pelham. If it was not taking too much liberty, I would desire you to keep him in remembrance of that promise.

If, after all, I should fail in those applications, the thought that you, and some of those whom you value, have interested themselves in my favour, will give me more pleasure than perhaps getting the office would have given to another.

When I consider the degree of estimation and gratitude in which you are held from one end of this country to the other,

an estimation and gratitude which, by being sometimes at Glasgow, I have, more than many people, an opportunity of observing,—it inflames my ambition; I have often said so to your friend—and, I flatter myself, *my* friend—Mr Elliot; and perhaps it inflamed his on the other hand. When I consider what a bustle I am making about this poor trifle, it deadens that ambition altogether. If anything raises me, it is the thought, that, by taking you, in another sphere, for my pattern, I may be of that service to one county, which you are of to your country in general.

I have the honour to be, with respect,

Your obliged
and very humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN DALRYMPLE.

EDINBURGH,
Feb. 22, 1754.

MR J. DALRYMPLE TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE this day seen a warrant from the Treasury, which takes near one half of the salary of my office from me, and gives it to my Deputy. This was not more surprising to me than to the Board of Excise; and therefore they have delayed executing the warrant, till I have time to apply to the Treasury. The warrant is dated the 16th April.

I understand this is owing to Commissioner Danber, against whose will and interest I came into this office, and who has bethought himself of this way to make me throw up what he could not at first exclude me from: he put me to the Treasury, on a footing with James Hamilton, and said I made a sinecure of my office.

As son to Lady Dalrymple, and nephew to Mr Crawfurd, I desire your protection, —not to countenance me if I have been in the wrong, but to vindicate me, if I have been wronged. The Board I belong to will stand by me, all except Danber, and even he too, when he is not whispering in a corner. I have sent a copy of the enclosed Memorial to the Duke of Argyle, and another to the Solicitor General, Mr Yorke. If the warrant cannot be got revoked on the sight of these memorials, I beg the truth of the complaint made against me may be referred to the Board, who should best know my behaviour in their service.

If you approve of the memorial, you will oblige me by sending it to Mr Robert Dalrymple, in King Street, Golden Square, who will give it in to the Treasury.

Though I ask favours, I can but ill stoop or flatter. You will believe me but

too well, when I tell you that I was hurt to death, on seeing your hand at a warrant putting so severe an affront upon me, without receiving information I was attacked, or being allowed to defend myself.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Your most obedient
humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN DALRYMPLE.

EDINBURGH,
July 4, 1760.

MR RICHARD OSWALD*
TO MR OSWALD.

(No date.)

DEAR SIR,

As I have reason to apprehend some propositions relative to the supply of the foreign troops in our pay are gone over to-day to the Treasury, which are not the most favourable to the public; and, on the principle of urgent necessity, especially as to forage, may hurry their Lordships

* Mr Richard Oswald was a merchant of great respectability in London, and early employed in supplying the army in Germany during the Seven Years' War. In this capacity, he gave the utmost satisfaction to Prince Ferdinand; and it was of him, and of Sir Robert Boyd, then in the Provision Department, that the Prince said, "The British have sent me commissaries fit to be generals, and generals unfit to be commissaries." Mr Oswald's conduct having thus brought him greatly into notice, he was employed under the administration of the late Lord Lansdowne, in negotiating the treaty of peace with America.

into a wrong plan, which it may be difficult hereafter to remedy, I have taken the liberty to send my thoughts on the subject, in a packet to Mr Mill, who will put them into your hands without delay. The papers are many and long, owing partly to a fault in my way of writing, and partly to my writing by starts, as I can spare time; having rather too much to do until Mr Græme comes over. After you have run over the papers, if you think of it, you may shew them to your friend, who, I really think, should attend to the substance of them. He can soon judge from what comes from this side, whether they will be of service. For my part, I think it so material that he should be apprized of what is in agitation here, and what has passed in relation to these matters, that I send a person on purpose with them. The expense will stand me about twenty guineas; but I don't regard that. I hate

to see such capital things smothered so in the dark, which must be the case if the plan is completed in the manner that some part of it has been begun: for I do think that part very bad. With proper caution it may still be overset without offence to the Duke. But that cannot be done if no notice is taken of it for some time.

Your friend will judge how to proceed in the whole, from what he sees come from this side. So I shall say no more about it, only that I strongly suspect the little man here, has a friend on the other side. Whoever he is, he deserves——

As to my own affairs, I go on supplying the troops to their satisfaction. But I am still without any money; the Duke giving for reason, that the Treasury have not taken the least notice to his Grace of me, or my conduct. Whether the omission lies with their Lordships, or whether in his Grace's Secretary, Colonel Brown,

omitting to put me in the letter of the 12th or 13th September, which the Duke promised should inform their Lordships of his having agreed with me, I cannot say. But it is a little hard upon me, and a sort of affront into the bargain. All I would wish for is, that their Lordships would inform the Duke, that as I had, in consequence of their advertisement, made the most reasonable proposals, they had accepted of me, and approved of his ordering me to go on in the service, and desiring, if I have done my duty, to take me under his protection, and supply me with the usual advance of money, which is three months' waggon hire, and two or three months' full price of bread. When I was complaining to L. G. the other day, he said I should have wrote Mr Martin immediately upon my being accepted by the Duke. I depended upon his Grace's assurance, that he would write the Trea-

sury what concerned me, and so was easy; but I have wrote Mr Martin by this express, and beg you will speak to him to get leave to say something or other about me. The bearer returns directly to his business here, so, if any letter can be had, he will bring it, with any other commands you may have for me.

Prince Soubise has obliged General Oberg to retire under the cannon, I think, of Harburg, with some loss. The account came to town yesterday. Our Prince has marched towards Lipstad to fight Contades. He is to-night at Warendorf, 20 English miles from hence, on the road to Lipstad, and the hereditary Prince, with a large body, advanced before him. There never was a general more beloved by his army, or more confided in, than Prince Ferdinand is. By all I can hear of him, it's with great reason; and if he has the address to keep this country this winter,

against an army so much superior, it will be much to his honour.

The Duke of Marlborough lies here very bad of a flux—it's said in a good deal of danger. Our English troops don't stand this climate so well as I could wish. There has been great sickness among them.

I never once mentioned the artillery affair; when I saw what sort of ground I was upon, I thought it needless. I beg my compliments to the ladies and the doctor, and my young friend, and I am, dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RICHARD OSWALD.

MR MILL TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

MY fear of being troublesome when I know you must be greatly hurried, prevented my doing myself the honour of waiting upon you, and paying my compliments before you left town; so I embrace this opportunity of congratulating you upon your removal to the Treasury. Your readiness to employ your interest in the service of your friends, leaves no room to doubt of the sincerity of their joy, upon any event that appears to strengthen or increase it.

The enclosed I received to-day from our friend,* who, no doubt, informs you of his accompanying the hereditary Prince

* Mr Richard Oswald.

of Brunswick in his expedition to Saxony. I hope the Prince will reap laurels. I am sure I don't envy the commissary his employment: however, he will, I am persuaded, do everything in his way that can be expected from him.

I hope the fatigue of your journey at this season of the year will have no bad effect upon your health, and shall be glad of the pleasure of seeing you safe returned to your family, being, with the most perfect esteem and regard, Sir,

Your most obliged
and obedient humble servant,
(Signed) JOHN MILL.

LONDON,
Dec. 27, 1759.

SIR H. DALRYMPLE* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR JAMES,

I AM much obliged to you for your last. Your observation on my situation is just. Hard it must be for a private man, let his interest be never so good, to struggle against the favourite and director of a minister, who has governed this country so long, and who, for many years, has conferred no reward but by the direction of

* Sir Hew Dalrymple of North Berwick, Bart. He was chosen M. P. for the burghs of Haddington, &c. at the election in 1741; for the county of Haddington in 1747 and 1754; and for the burghs again in 1761. He died at London in Nov. 1790, having lived a good many years in retirement from public life. He was a person of considerable wit, and author of a celebrated letter to Sir Lawrence Dundas, printed in vol. II. p. 566 of the Statistical Account of Scotland.

him who is now my opponent, and who, of consequence, has all the power of the Crown in his hands.

Lord Coulston has never had any opportunity to know of the agreement between Milton and me; he has broke off friendship with me, because, he says, I would not follow his advice. If he knew himself, he would see how little capable he is of giving any directions, for, of all the men I have known, he is the least knowing in the ways of the world: application to business he possesses; as to men and politics, he is a child; his ambition, and not his heart, directs him at present. I am told he is flattered with the hopes of being Justice Clerk, at least the first Justiciary Judge. I think he is incapable of giving evidence in the point between Milton and me, because he knows he speaks the words of Milton, not his own, if he does so. I send you enclosed the

full state of the affair, for which I will pass my honour and oath. Perhaps I may be blinded in that concern myself; if you think me wrong, tell me so. I believe, before my friend Coulston was so compliant to their desires, they had doubt of carrying the county, and doubts of Lord Tweedale's assistance. I have undoubted evidence that Milton pressed his son-in-law, Wedderburn, to stand for the county, or towns, last October, before the Duke of Argyle, at Inverary. Mr Charters told me that Wedderburn told him so himself: Milton's design then was to turn me out of both. I presume, his love for the money it must have cost, prevented the execution of that plan. He has no way of carrying either of the elections at present, but by heaping offices and places on a number of gentlemen, or their connexions, to influence them against me. The agreement he alleges to have been

betwixt him and me does not carry the face of common sense, for, in the county, he shews so few friends, that, after Lord Tweedale brings him ten votes, and Lord Elibank makes two new ones for him, and the Dukes of Argyle and Athole bring in all their friends, and all the men in office and court dependents, his success is still very uncertain; and, if the Duke of Newcastle gives me his influence as well as name, I really think I shall beat him; and, without any interest, I run him to a very few votes: so far does my real interest surpass his in the burghs. I hold the town of North Berwick, and have, besides, an old and natural interest in the towns of Haddington and Lauder; Lord Milton has none, but what he pretends to as the director of the Boards of Customs and Excise, and what he commands as sub-minister of this country. You may believe

I had in view something more solid than the countenance of such a man to make me enter into an agreement with him at a time he was endeavouring to oppress me, and who formerly had done me family injuries in a way I scorn to make mention of. I have for many years been connected to the Duke of Argyle from love and desire to follow him. I think he has returned me well for my good wishes. I thank God, it is in the power of no man to do me much hurt. I may be turned out of Parliament, but my interest, when I am out, will ever be respectable, and to be courted by any who have a mind to get into this county, or burghs. Whatever my condition may be, my views are very limited. I should wish to see my country freed from little home tenants; and, as it is a part of the great empire of Britain, I hope to see it subject to the

King and his minister alone, and not governed by one who can do much hurt, and little good, within the sphere he has usurped.

But I shall tire you no more. I never am politically mad for above half an hour. Adieu.

(No signature.)

Aug. 28. 1760.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dear James,

The Commissioners of the Customs have named one Thomas Burnett to be boatman of a king's boat, stationed at North Berwick, commanded by Captain Patterson. I am told it is customary for boatmen to have a letter from the Trea-

sury, which confirms their nomination. I must therefore beg the favour you will procure such a letter for him.

I heard lately from Mr Stanley of an attack the Duke of Argyle had made on the Duke of Newcastle about my election, when his Grace of Newcastle declared his resolution of supporting me. I am so perfectly sensible of his Grace's goodness, that I want much to write to testify my most grateful acknowledgments for his protection of me. Lord Milton still deals in making large promises to many of mighty things he is to do for them by way of office, for acting against me. Mr Cockburn of Clerkinton is immediately to get the office of Inspector General of the Salt, (which was possessed by the late Sir Robert Dixon), for being the manager against me. I hope the Duke will not give offices against me, when he declares for me. The Marquis

of Tweedale has joined with Lord Milton against me, because I turned out his brother, and because I am the strongest. I do not fear both, if the Lord President pays that regard to the Duke of Newcastle's recommendation he ought. I have tried to speak with him again and again, in town and country, but he avoids it, though I don't find he takes part against me, but neither hope he will declare for me. The interest against me is very powerful in names, but no man can stand better with the freeholders; indeed, my interest, when so attacked and brought to his all, is better than I had reason to hope for. I have not yet heard of the fate of those gentlemen engaged in the last battle. Bland's dragoons, where my son is, has had a considerable share in the action; I cannot sleep before I hear the certainty, though I am prepared even against the worst, holding it right to be

always satisfied with the fate of a soldier, and never to reflect for the consequence, though I may, and must have my feelings. God bless you and your boy, my dear Oswald. I am most sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. DALRYMPLE.

N. BERWICK HOUSE.
July 30, 1760.

Pray write me if you think it proper I should acknowledge the Duke of Newcastle's goodness to me, in writing so to his Grace.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

September 18, 1760.
EDINBURGH.

DEAR OSWALD,

I CAME to this place two days ago, when I found the Duke of A——, Lord Lou-

don, my brother Hamilton, and some of my friends. I found my brother had sent an express for me to the country, to see if any way of accommodation could be fallen upon of my affairs. Lord Tweeddale had entered very heartily into the other side, on hearing Mr Cockburn of Clerkinton provided for: he had likewise insisted on Mr Tait being made Clerk to the Session, which being likewise obtained, he got one or two nonjurors to consent to swear to vote against me: thus the ministerial power ..[illegible].. to all extent on the one side; the President, on the other side, would neither come into engagement nor declaration for me, though his father-in-law, and his wife's uncle, Lord Bankton, took part against me on being asked, and I had reason to suspect that proper solicitations from — — — might have made him declare not in my favour. Such things known, naturally raise the

demands of inferior ranks of people, which I found very heavily: it was, therefore, the opinion of my brother and Lord Loudon, that I should come to accommodation. You need not doubt of the vexation that my situation, fighting against so formidable a power, has occasioned to me. Why should I make my life unhappy for months together? I therefore, for myself, consented to yield up at present the county, on condition that they take the trouble of making the burghs at a joint expense, which, indeed, may not succeed; but if it does, I shall have it in my power to shew my gratitude to the Duke of Newcastle.

I am very sensible of the high honour he did me, in shewing a desire of having me continue in Parliament, and part of my reason of coming into this compromise was, that I might not trespass on his goodness, by plaguing him with com-

plaints and solicitations. I beg you will assure his Grace of my gratitude and warmest zeal. I am persuaded his countenance in my favour, is what made them most desirous of accommodation.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) HEW DALRYMPLE.

GOVERNOR MELVILLE* TO MR OSWALD.

GUADELOUPE, FORT ROYAL,
July 22, 1760.

DEAR SIR,

I WAS favoured with your very kind and obliging letter by Mr Græme, and

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* General Melville was well known to learned men of this, and other countries, for his extensive and profound acquaintance with ancient history, and particularly for his researches concerning the route which Hannibal followed

you may believe me, sir, have payed regard to your recommendations. I am sorry to say that the old gentleman droops a little, and as our sickly months are com-

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in entering Italy. Taking Polybius as his guide, he traced the march of the illustrious Carthaginian leader from the passage of the Rhone, to his descent into the territory of the *Insubres*, near *Augusta Taurinorum* (Turin), and determined by the clearest evidence, that he must have crossed by the Graian Alp, or Little St Bernard; that with this assumption, all the topographical descriptions, measures of distance, and incidental notices of the different Alpine tribes he encountered on his way, are in perfect accordance; and that, on the other hand, the time which the march occupied, the physical conformation of the country, together with the concomitant circumstances disclosed, render it impossible he should have carried his army either by Mount Cenis, which is the hypothesis of Livy, or by the Great St Bernard, which is that of Whitaker. The result of this patient and minute investigation, therefore, was a complete confirmation of the account of Polybius, from whom Livy has so injudiciously borrowed, and who, himself a military man, had explored the passage of Hannibal, while that memorable achievement was comparatively recent. As the General published nothing on the subject of his own researches, the learned world are greatly indebted to M. de Luc of Geneva, to whom he communicated his notes and memoranda, for the clear and distinct manner, in which he has stated the

ing on, I am not without my fears about him. Yet, as he is careful of himself, I hope he will parry mortality.

This will probably be delivered by the Comptroller of the Customs at Antigua, Mr Hutton, who I can venture to affirm to be a lad of good character, and very intelligent about the business and trade of the Leeward Islands. I have sent, in a small box, some of our cinnamon, which grows in the Calipesterre. If my Lord Halifax has not seen of it before, I beg you will send him some, with my duty. I have writ several letters to his Lordship since Governor Crump's death, and perhaps may be honoured by the convoy with his answer, but it is not yet arrived.

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results of the General's laborious and most satisfactory investigation.

General Melville resided many years in London, where he mingled chiefly with the literary society of the capital, and died at an advanced age.

I did not solicit, on the late occasion, nor have I since used any solicitations; if I am not thought well enough of, to deserve the succession, or to be on such a footing with the inhabitants, as to make it political, I do not deserve it But, in God's name, let them send another to rescue me from the continual fatigues I undergo, which no one that does not know or reflect upon the peculiarity of my situation, can conceive, and from such expenses as must ruin me; or else let them with a good grace bestow upon me at once the commission and appointments of Governor. I assure you, suspense is not only very little agreeable to myself, but prejudicial to public business, because wherever doubtfulness is at bottom, measures will be but ill pursued; besides that one does not care to begin or project things where one does not hope for the satisfaction and honour of finishing. This is *hu-*

man nature, and even let me add, PRUDENCE. You see, my dear sir, I write you without reserve, for I know I may rely on your honour and friendship. I am still convinced that if I am at any time neglected or ill-treated, it will not be from want of kind endeavours in my favour. In the meantime, all is quiet and well here, and I meet with fewer difficulties than perhaps some others would.

I shall be so hurried till the ships sail, that I shall not be able to write all the letters I ought. May I entreat, sir, that you will be so kind as to use your interest (as far as it may be proper,) to recommend two worthy men to employments here, who, by the sense of the public, as well as my own, are the fittest we can find here. I mean Mr Edward Horne, a lawyer of Antigua, (who has been so kind as to advise in the King's affairs, without ever accepting of any fee,) to be Attorney-Gene-

ral of our conquered inlands, which, I believe, would be more an honour than a beneficial office,—and Mr Patrick Maxwell, (brother to the Judge of Admiralty at Antigua,) to be our judge of that Court here; for, without such a Court, it will be impossible to restrain contraband trade and its ill consequences, in a tolerable manner.

I beg you will present my duty to your family, and respects to General Shebeare, and Sir H. Erskine when you see him. Permit me to add, that I am, with the sincerest respect and esteem,

Yours, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT MELVILLE.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DERBY STREET, WESTMINSTER,
August 1, 1763.

DEAR SIR,

Having heard that there was a chance of Mr Grenville going out of town to-morrow or Wednesday, and that he would not be in town again for a fortnight, I thought it best not to defer waiting on him, and accordingly went to pay my respects. I was admitted and treated with great civility, but I did not touch on the indelicate subject of my own appointments, or any of the heads I wished to consult you about previously. I hope this will reach you soon enough to prevent you coming to town, unless your affairs require it. But, if you do come to-morrow, or any other day, and do me the

honour of calling, or sending to let me know where you are, I shall be much obliged.

I intend also, if you do not come to town, to take my chance of dining at your house on Saturday, unless you should inform me that it will be inconvenient, or that you are to be abroad. Otherwise I hope you will not take the trouble of writing. My respects to Mrs Oswald and the family, and believe me to be, with great esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most faithful and obedient humble servant,

(Signed) ROBERT MELVILLE.

MR MURE* TO MR OSWALD.

My dear Sir,

This will be presented to you by Mr Robert Barclay, from Glasgow, who goes up as agent to the bill for a canal of communication between the Forth and Clyde. I need not to you set forth the great national advantages of this undertaking. I might rather congratulate you, as a friend to the public, upon this distinguished effort of mercantile enterprize of our country. In a few days the subscription was filled at Glasgow to the extent of L.40,000. The adventurers, of whom I have the ho-

* William Mure, Esq. of Caldwall, afterwards Baron of Exchequer in Scotland.

nour to be done, now apply to Parliament for a tonnage, and powers to execute the work. Allow me to recommend them to your assistance and patronage, and to refer you to Mr Barclay for every particular of information. I ever am, with the most perfect regard,

My dear Sir,

Your most faithful and most obedient servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM MURE.

CALDWALL,
March 11, 1767.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

MY DEAR SIR,

I UNDERSTAND some time ago there was a letter wrote to you, and another to the Lord Advocate, from the Trustees' Office, and signed by three of their number, upon

the subject of the Glasgow canal. Lest these letters should have more weight, as supposed to carry the sentiments of the Board, I must give you the trouble to inform you, that they were dispatched by these three members of themselves, not only without any authority from the Board, but without the knowledge of any of the other members, though there were a considerable number of them in town. Several of them have since expressed their strongest disapprobation of any measures being taken upon a subject of that importance, without their being consulted, or a Board called. The fact is, it was just a random stroke of our friend Kames, who, in his usual manner, without taking time to consider, or to be informed, has conceived a zeal for a large canal, which there is no prospect of being executed, in preference to a smaller one, which would answer the purpose equally well, and may be executed

immediately. But you know him well enough. That knowledge is sufficient to account to you for what has happened. I have only to tell you that his notions, and those of the bulk of the trustees, were they to be consulted in that great national point, would be widely different. If there is any occasion for it, pray communicate this to the Lord Advocate: I make you no apology for this trouble: the circumstances of the business it relates to, required it. I have the honour to be, with the highest regard,

My dear Sir,
Your most faithful and most
obedient servant,
(Signed) WILLIAM MURE.

EDINBURGH,
26th March, 1767.

SIR H. ERSKINE * TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR JAMES,

I KNOW not whether or not your correspondents on the coast have informed you of the alterations which the Burntisland road has occasioned. The committee appointed for carrying it on, and Provost Hamilton, are at law. The chief point in litigation is, whether the road should go by the south side or the north side of the loch of Kinghorn. By the north, is Mr Ferguson's property; by the south, is the property of the town of Kinghorn. Hamilton pushes for the north side, which is about 200 yards farther round. Mr Ferguson would give no obstruction to its passing that way. The committee would have

* Lieutenant General Sir H. Erskine, father of Sir James Erskine St Clair, second Earl of Rosslyn, and long a distinguished member of the House of Commons.

consented to that at first, if they could have been certain that Mr Ferguson would acquiesce. The town of Burntisland would also have consented. But the spirit of contention is now gone forth. I have all along endeavoured for the north side, as thoroughly convinced that any one of the towns being disgusted could not be for your interest. And I have been the more induced to persevere in endeavouring that kind of compromise, that Hamilton is piqued with the General, for having espoused the road with so much warmth; and that I learn from him he is very much incensed at you for not having returned him an answer to a letter which he says he wrote to you about a month ago. What the subject is, I know not; but he speaks of your silence as a neglect, and speaks of it with a good deal of resentment. Let me entreat you, therefore, dear James, to soften him with an answer of some sort or other;

for, you know, he is of that temper, that, if he thinks himself neglected, he will not fail to look out for an opportunity of giving disturbance, if ever such a one should unfortunately present itself. I thought, for your interest, that some one of us should endeavour to keep well with him, and therefore I went as far as I decently could to humour him. Will you forgive me if I venture to go a little farther. Sir James Wemyss seems to be excessively incensed about another road: If you can say anything to him, or desire Provost Whyte, in your name, to say anything that will prevent a rupture, pray do it by the return of the post—otherwise I am afraid it may come too late. This, dear James, is meddling beyond my sphere, but you must perceive that friendship is my only motive. Enclosed I send you Mr Cuningham's list, which I received a few days ago; and I shall write to Bailie Martin for his

brother's name, which he has neglected to send me.

Thus far I had come before I got yours this morning; and am much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken about Bailie Martin's brother, and Bailie Johnston's relation. I have received two other letters from Mr Biddulph since I wrote to you, one of them desiring me to apply to you, and another reiterating his instances with respect to Charles Townsend: I have writ to Charles Townsend to content him, and have writ to himself, that recommendations from such as are eminent in the law, are the only ones which can procure him success. He tells me, he expects that he will be able to obtain the Chancellor's countenance. I applaud your resolution extremely, not to be instrumental in conferring any employment of that kind, except on such as deserve it by their abilities and

integrity. I shall not fail to make inquiry about the warrant for William Stewart, as you desire me. Provost Hamilton and Mr Charters are now in town about their lawsuit. I am,

Dear James,

Your most affectionate friend,

(Signed) H. ERSKINE.

EDINBURGH,
July 23, 1754.

GENERAL JAMES ST CLAIR* TO MR OSWALD.

EDINBURGH,
January 26, 1754.

DEAR SIR,

I AM obliged to you for your letter of ——, which I read over more than once

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* The Honourable James St Clair was the second son of Henry, seventh Lord Sinclair. His elder brother having engaged in the rebellion of 1715, and been attainted by Act

with the utmost attention, as I was not a little astonished at the contents of it. That General Anstruther, when he was defeated in the County and in the Burghs,

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of Parliament, his father, Lord Sinclair, devised his estate to his second son, the subject of this notice, who, however, generously surrendered it to his brother, when his pardon was obtained in 1735–6. At an early age he entered the army, where he served with distinguished reputation, and successively obtained the rank of Colonel in 1722, of Major-General in 1741, of Lieutenant-General in 1745, and of General in 1761. He served for several years in the 3d regiment of Foot Guards, of which he was first Major in 1725; obtained the command of the 22d regiment of foot in 1734, and, in 1737, was appointed Colonel of the first, or Royal Scots regiment of foot, which he commanded till his death. In 1745, he acted as Quarter-master-general to the British forces in Flanders. In 1746, he was appointed Commander-in-chief of a considerable body of troops embarked on board transports at Spithead, where a large squadron of ships of war had assembled, to escort them to their destination, which was originally fixed for Quebec, with the view of attacking the French North-American possessions. General St Clair spared no pains to obtain all necessary information relative to the country, and the service upon which he was to be employed: But after various delays, the ministry suddenly came to the resolution of sending the troops to make a descent upon the coast of Bre-

should give vent to his complaints at London, as his emissaries had done to his aspersions in the country, is by no means matter of surprise to me; but that his

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tagne, in hopes of compelling the French to draw off part of their forces from Flanders, where their army was superior to that of the allies. The expedition sailed from St Helen's on the 5th of August, 1746; effected a landing, in the face of the enemy, near Port L'Orient, on the 20th of September; and after some skirmishing, proceeded to lay siege to the town. But, owing to the ignorance of the engineers, the bad state of the artillery, and an insufficiency of ammunition, the General was compelled to raise the siege, and to re-embark the army; which was effected on the 28th of September. The troops then proceeded to Quiberon Bay, where they re-landed, and after destroying all the forts and guns on the peninsula of Quiberon, once more embarked and returned to England. Though not attended with any brilliant result, this demonstration in a great measure answered the end it was meant to serve, by compelling Marshal Saxe to send considerable detachments from his army in Flanders.

In this expedition, David Hume acted as Secretary to the Commander-in-chief, in which capacity he also attended the General in his subsequent embassy to the Court of Turin.

General St Clair was chosen M.P. for Dysart, &c. at the general election in 1722, re-elected in 1727, and returned for the third time in 1745; on a vacancy in 1736, he ob-

complaints should be listened to at London, in the serious manner you mention, I own is entirely unexpected. Had either you or I been the aggressor in this contest of elections, it would not have been so extraordinary if he had been asked to desist; but as this attack on Mr Anstruther is but a return for his former attempts upon us, he alone is answerable for the event. You say that he has sworn to Mr Pelham, that he never solicited a single vote against you; yet you and I both know, as well as all the freeholders of Fife, that he has done his utmost against each of us; and not to specify

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tained the representation of the county of Sutherland, and was re-chosen at the general election in 1741; and, finally, he carried the county of Fife at the general election in 1754, (to which the following letter refers,) and was re-elected in 1764. This eminent person, with whom Mr Oswald lived in habits of the closest friendship, died at Dysart, on the 30th of November, 1762.

many particulars, long before I was named a candidate for the county, his Secretary, Mr Moncrieff, to support his solicitations, declared to every one, that he stood on General Anstruther's interest; which indeed was absurd, as the General has no interest but among the few voters of his name, whom he keeps in expectation that at his death, they are to have the spoils of Minorca divided amongst them. You tell me likewise, that Mr Pelham says he will give his interest to General Anstruther, because he is in possession: and I am sorry that possession should be thought a sufficient protection for him against me, since it was none to me, when I was attacked, and unjustly turned out of the county of Sutherland, by the protection given to General Mackay. 'Tis not from the vote against the Gate of Edinburgh that this attack has taken its rise; 'tis

from the General's behaviour towards us; 'tis from the insolence and neglect he has shewn on all occasions to his constituents, and from that contempt and cruelty with which you know he treated some of them, on their application a few months ago. Fired with his oppressions, haughtiness, and ill-usage, they called loudly for a candidate to oppose him: we received invitations from them; we went and we succeeded, and thereby prevented others from entering the lists against him. Had this not been the case, can it be imagined that a majority of the Burghs would have declared in our favour, the moment he assembled the electors and asked their votes? But, if they had no reason to complain of him, he has taken ample care to render both me and my nephew his implacable enemies: and what he knew it would not be safe for him to express openly himself, he sent his agents to insinuate,

that as we were descended from Jacobite families, we must be looked on as disaffected to his Majesty, and his government. This malicious insinuation—this scandalous falsehood, with regard to our fidelity, I never will forgive; and from this cause and many others, I never will desist. I will endeavour to place my nephew in that situation, where he may be able to shew his zeal for the present happy establishment, and his attachment to the present administration. Mr Pelham knows I undertook to answer for him, and since he is now certain of a seat in Parliament, Mr Pelham will find that he will adhere inviolably to the engagements I entered into for him; and that he will be as firm to him as I have constantly been.

Pray offer my most respectful compliments to Mr Pelham, and tell him, that I flattered myself, on considering the different pretensions of our antagonist and

myself, that I should have been exempted from the disagreeable task of excusing myself to him, for not complying with his desire. I never could have imagined that my adversary's military services could have weighed more with his Majesty than mine; I did not know that his Parliamentary services were greater; I doubt, I very much doubt, if Mr Pelham will find that his personal attachment to him is so great, or so sincere. I am certain my character is better, and that I am more esteemed in our own country, as well as in the rest of his Majesty's dominions. In consequence of Mr Pelham's desires, I have forbore to give the smallest opposition to Captain Mackay in the county of Sutherland, though it was in my power to have done it effectually. When I have been solicited for the borough of Dornoch, I have constantly answered that it

was in Mr Pelham's disposal. I have been openly attacked in the county by Commissary Leslie, and I could with ease have fixed the St Andrew's district of burghs, in favour of Captain Leslie's antagonist, Captain Haldan; but because the Leslie interest was espoused by Mr Pelham, I stifled my resentment, and patiently bore with the insult, without returning it; and it must not be expected, that after Mr Anstruther's insolent, outrageous, and injurious behaviour, he shall be suffered to tread me and my relations under foot with impunity. I have given the strongest assurances to our friends in the eastern burghs, that I never will abandon them, and I have a reputation to preserve. Were I to desist, I should give the world reason to believe, that I acquiesce in the aspersions spread by his emissaries. I should give him an opportunity of trampling on me, and the world an occasion of

affirming, that his aspersions are credited where they are known to be utterly false.

I have opposed him with an intention of securing a seat in Parliament to my nephew, who is more able, and at least as willing as the General, to support his Majesty's measures, and the friends of the administration; and I was the more encouraged to countenance him in this attempt, that Mr Pelham was so good as to tell me, that if he got into Parliament, he should be extremely welcome to him. The case, therefore, stands thus: the attack was begun from the justest motive, that of retaliation; his injurious behaviour, my resentment for it, and my honour which is nearly concerned, make it absolutely impossible for me ever to think of receding; and if I, my nephew, and our resentments, were dead to-morrow, there is, you know, such a spirit against

him in the district of burghs, that he would not be three days without a successful opposer. Mr Pelham is thoroughly acquainted with my anxiety to do everything that is agreeable to his wishes; could I have known them before the attack was made, they would have had the greatest weight with me; but now the die is cast, that I must remain unalterable, I flatter myself he will be so kind as shew himself my friend in the closet, as I shall always be ready to give him every testimony of my personal attachment to him, whenever his interest shall be concerned. So I conclude, therefore, with my final answer, since you say that my final answer is demanded. 'Tis this: General Anstruther gave the first provocation, by attacking you, whom Mr Pelham desired me to support: he has augmented it since to an intolerable degree, and, now that I

have it in my power, I am thoroughly determined he shall feel that I and my friends are sensible of his indignities, and that we will convince the world, his malicious aspersions have as little influence here, as his complaints and his imprecations ought to have with the gentlemen of the administration at London. But say this to Mr Pelham in the genteelest manner you are able, and oblige, &c.

(Signed) JAMES ST CLAIR.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DEAR JAMES,

I HEARD with the utmost pleasure, by this morning's post from London, the certainty of your being promoted to a seat at the Treasury Board, of which I give you joy from the bottom of my heart. As I see that there must be several resolu-

tions, and that the writs cannot be issued till after the 2d of December, I take it for granted, that no business can be done in St Stephen's Chapel till after the Christmas holidays, so that if you incline to it, you will have full time to come and eat a goose or minced pie with me at Dysart. But should you not choose to come down with the writ yourself, and accept of my invitation to a Christmas dinner, you may rely on it from me, that you shall run no risk in your election, which, as delegate from Dysart, shall be attended to by, &c.

(Signed) JAMES ST CLAIR.

P. S.—My best compliments to my old friends Lady Dunnikier and Mrs Oswald. Your Kirkcaldy friends, who have dined with me to-day, have just left me.

DYSART,
November 19, 1756.

MR PELHAM TO MR OSWALD.

SIR,

I HAD a thorough conversation with the Duke of Argyle upon your subject yesterday. He seems very much inclined to your service, and has promised me to do all he can to make your election easy; I afterwards saw Lord Rothes, who assures me he will do the same. The Duke of Argyle thinks the Solicitor General should write to Mr Scot, who is now in the country, and doubts not but he will do as he should do. I hope, therefore, I may now wish you joy of everything being settled to your mind. I said nothing to Lord Rothes of what employment you were to have, but put the case to him only conditionally. You may now proceed your own way in securing your own interest;

as the writ will probably not be moved for till the week after next, you will have full time for that purpose. I am just going into the country, and shall return on Monday. I hope to see you soon after my return, and shall then explain all particulars, I flatter myself, to your satisfaction.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. PELHAM.

ARLINGTON STREET,
Dec. 9, 1751.

MR TOWNSHEND* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR SIR,

I WRITE with difficulty, my nerves being so shaken with pain and starving; but I am unwilling to delay assuring you, how very desirous I am of concurring with you

* For an eloquent, powerful, happily-drawn character of this highly-gifted and versatile genius, the reader may consult Burke's incomparable speech on American Taxation.

in whatever has the sanction of your approbation, and the good fortune of meeting with your support. I hope the matter will not require my attendance immediately, as I am told by both my physicians I must be extremely attentive to my recovery for some time, or hazard my life. I am, &c.

(Signed) C. TOWNSHEND.

(No date.)

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DEAR SIR,

YOU know in what manner and for what purpose I am attending here, and therefore will, I am certain, easily forgive my not keeping the engagement I lately made with you for Tuesday next, when you hear me assure you that I cannot do it without greatly contradicting the

inclination of a particular person. I hope this accident will only delay our meeting, and that you will still retain your agreement to go over the Nova Scotia account with me, as soon as the office meets. I shall be glad to meet you for that purpose at your own time, and am, with great regard, dear Sir, Yours, &c.

(Signed) C. TOWNSHEND.

HENDON,
Dec. 31, 1752.

GOVERNOR MURRAY* TO MR OSWALD.

QUEBEC,
July 17, 1761.

DEAR SIR,

ALL I send by the opportunity of Lieutenant Malcolm to his Grace of Newcastle

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* The Honourable General James Murray was the gallant companion and associate of Wolfe, the intrepid defender of Quebec, and the person chosen to follow up the plans of his immortal commander. Latterly, he resisted the combined force of France and Spain at Minorca, till the garri-

I put under your cover, and leave them open for your perusal. When you have read them, you will be pleased to seal them, and I know, if anything which I have done, or which I have omitted to do, requires an apology, you will make it for me, as you may be assured nobody has it more at heart to do right and to deserve your esteem. My good friend the Major is very well. He no doubt writes to you: he and I both think that he has been too long a Major: all who know him allow he deserves a much higher rank.

I have the honour to be, with the utmost truth and regard, &c.

(Signed) JAS. MURRAY.

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son, wasted by casualties and disease, was no longer equal to the duties of defence. General Murray was a distinguished officer; but the warmth and vivacity of his temper sometimes gave undue advantages to those whom, in the exercise of his civil functions, he had to regulate and control. Something of this kind transpires in these letters, in which the unbounded confidence he reposed in Mr Oswald's friendship and counsel is also very conspicuous.

P.S.—The bearer, Mr Malcolm, lost his leg last summer in serving his country in private life: he is a most deserving young man, and was a distinguished good officer. I beg you will allow him to deliver, in person, my dispatches for his Grace; and I am persuaded, I need not say anything to induce you to do all in your power to advise and assist an unfortunate countryman.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Quebec,
Nov. 9, 1761.

My Dear Sir,

I received a letter from my brother Gideon, acquainting me of the extraordinary obligations I lie under to you at present. I can only repay in thanks and ac-

knowledgments, and you may be assured of my gratitude and attachment to you and yours while I live.

My worthy friend Colonel Oswald will put this into your hands. Accept of my hearty and sincere congratulations on his advancement, though thereby I have lost a stout support in this government, and my battalion will miss a most tender, careful father. I dare not say all of him I know, for fear you might think it flattery, but everybody will tell you that a more benevolent heart never existed, and his intimate friends know of no defect in him, but that excess of modesty which has prevented other people from admiring his abilities and good qualities as much as they do. He is so good as to charge himself with my letters to his Grace of Newcastle, to Mr Pitt, and to Mr Martin, with papers to be laid before your board: I have left the whole unsealed for your

perusal, and I hope you will continue your protection and advice to me, and that you will suppress or forward any of the papers or letters you think proper, for I am totally ignorant of forms, and the *Chart du Pays*, and when I err in things of this sort, it is really for want of knowing better.

I would have recommended Gray to be Collector, but he is attached to his mercantile views. He proposes bidding for the King's Posts. If he can obtain them, they will be consistent with his other extensive schemes, which, I think, will be very advantageous to this colony, if it remains in our possession. He is a very sensible, industrious, honest young man, and anything I can do for him will give me double pleasure, now that I know that he is honoured with your countenance; which, by the by, I was ignorant of till the other day, though he has been employed by and con-

nected with me, ever since we took the place. Mr Ainslie, who I have mentioned for the Collectorship, is a very honest Caledonian, and I persuade myself you will give him a lift. Be assured I would not recommend him, if I did not think him deserving; but your brother knows the two men in question, and he will tell you that Gray is the man whose interest I have most at heart, and that if he cannot get the Posts, (of which I think there can be no doubt, as he will bid as much for them as another,) I hope he will be the Collector.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest truth, esteem, and gratitude,

My dear sir, yours, &c.

(Signed) J. MURRAY.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

QUEBEC,
Feb. 26, 1763.

DEAR SIR,

MY friend Maitland assures me of what I was confident of, the continuation of your friendship. He likewise tells me that you was pleased to ask him how I would like to be disposed of at the Peace. If Canada is ceded to us, I apprehend the colony must be under the direction of one governor. Mr Gage, I believe, is pushing for the command; he came over my head before, and, as I am the only governor at present who has the honour of a commission from his Majesty, to be superseded by him a second time will be too much for my philosophy. I have really taken great pains to make myself equal to the task of the government in question, and

I flatter myself his Majesty could not employ anybody who would be more agreeable to the people, because, in their great distress, I had opportunities of ingratiating myself with them, which may never again happen to any man. It, therefore, must be very agreeable to me to continue my endeavours to serve his Majesty in this country, but, if my authority is to be lessened by what I have pointed out above, they will neither be pleasing to myself, nor effectual for the King's interest. If the King's ministers think proper to recommend me for the government of this country, they may depend upon a rigid integrity, and a steady attention to business, which, I flatter myself, in time of peace, may make up for defects in parts. I write to you, my dear sir, without reserve, because I know you to be my friend. I must beg to be remembered to my dear

friend the Colonel, and am, with the utmost truth and gratitude, yours, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

QUEBEC,
May 21, 1763.

DEAR SIR,

I TAKE the very first opportunity of thanking you for your kind letter of the 15th January. The general arrangement for the troops in this country is not yet arrived. Whether it proves favourable for me or not, I am sure I have had every assistance in your power, which is a satisfaction that will alleviate every disappointment.

I think I should not act consistent with the duty I owe the public, if I did not recommend Mr Cromak to be Secretary

for this Province, and I am persuaded, be governor who will, he will have reason to thank me for so valuable a legacy. I refer you to Colonel Oswald and Shaw for his character as a gentleman. His abilities and diligence I have been greatly obliged to; in short, in the King's dominions I don't believe there is so fit a man for the employment; for, to every requisite qualification, he has the superior advantage of knowing and being beloved by the people. I must, therefore, my dear sir, beg that you will forward this letter to Mr Townshend, if you think an application from me can be acceptable to Mr Townshend: I have reason to doubt it from his never having answered a single letter of the many I have wrote to him, and from the ill success which Captain Barbutt has met with; for I think nothing but being patronized by a disagreeable man could have hurt him.

If Colonel Oswald comes out here, I hope it will be in a way to make up for the long inattention to his good services while in this country. I shall think myself very fortunate indeed, if I can have the happiness of shewing how much I am attached to him, and everybody that has the least connexion with you. In the meantime be assured that I am, with the utmost truth and affection, yours, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

QUEBEC,
12th Nov. 1763.

MY DEAREST SIR,

IT was needless for Major Johnstone and many others, from whom I received letters dated in August, to tell me how

much I owe to you. The success was doubtful, it is true, but your kind endeavours to procure it, were always certain. I have not words to express my gratitude; neither, I am sure, do you choose I should in that way attempt it. It is by doing justice to your recommendation that I am to make you a return; be assured, my dear sir, that shall be my constant study, and, I flatter myself, zeal, stimulated by gratitude, will, in a great measure, supply the want of brilliant talents. Happy shall I be if you have a leisure hour to bestow upon me. My task here will be very arduous, and I must, from time to time, take the liberty to lay my difficulties before you, and crave advice. A dreadful one at this very moment threatens me—no less than the loss of my bosom friend, Cromak. I have formerly told you how much I have been obliged to this gentleman in the management of affairs here, and I

must now declare I want nothing but his continuing upon a proper footing to make me entirely happy. For my sake, I know Cromak will stay, provided he can be on an honourable footing, and if he will submit to be Mr Ellis's deputy; pray let his situation be as exalted as possible, and let him be one of the Council, for an able and honest one he will be. As to appointments for him, I am at no loss. I will share my salary with him rather than part with him. Mr Ellis talks of fees and perquisites; new words to us, upon my salvation, as your brother the Colonel can well inform you, and they are words which will hardly ever be understood by Cromak. In short, my dear sir, we leave our letters for Ellis open for your perusal, and we are resolved to follow your opinion in this business, and rely entirely on it. * * * I have likewise sent a sample of some of our pine trees; if you do not

choose to plant them on your own estate, perhaps they will be acceptable to a friend. I likewise send some black birch plank for furniture: it is the growth of Canada, and I think more beautiful than mahogany. The Balsam of Canada, of which there is four bottles, is good for all disorders in the lungs and kidneys, and, as great demands are made for the seeds of trees and shrubs of this country, I have sent you a copy of the directions for gathering the same, a duplicate of which I keep, that if, for the future, you may want any of them for yourself, or for your friends, you may refer me to my duplicate, and depend upon the punctual execution of your orders for anything as far as Carolina. Mr Villars, whom you recommended to me, has been ill, but is now perfectly recovered. I beg to be recommended to the Colonel; I wish he may be the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec; I am not without

hopes. God Almighty bless you both, and be assured of the gratitude and affection of, my dearest Sir, yours, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

QUEBEC,
26th Jan. 1764.

MY DEAREST SIR,

I HAVE not words to express the satisfaction I have from your letter of the 8th Oct., because I am sure we can effectually do Sir James Cockburn's business, without putting you or him to any trouble. You have left the matter to me; you can hear no more about it, till Sir James writes to you a description of his possessions. I have only to desire that my good friend the Knight may set out immediately upon receipt of this, for Quebec. His worth.

is well known to me, and, until everything is made commodious for him in the Seigneurie, he will do me pleasure if he will accept of a billet at my house. I am well convinced of the worth of so valuable an acquisition to the colony; and, that that worth may have as extensive an influence as possible, I beg you will recommend Sir James for one of the Council: if any vacancies are left for my appointment, he shall most certainly be remembered.

I am astonished you have not thought of something in this country for my friend Colonel Oswald; unless he has changed his opinion, he has no objection to the climate: I shall therefore take it for granted he will have no objection to an estate in it: in the distribution of lands to the half-pay officers he cannot be forgot by me, and if the Jesuits or other communities sell, or give up their possessions, I shall make a bargain for him, which, if he does

not choose to enjoy, he may give to a friend; but I hope, before I write this, he is provided for in the American Army, and that he and I shall be happy in seeing a country flourish, the miseries of which we have formerly lamented, because it was not in our power to prevent them.

Everything considered, I am glad Shaw is to go to the East Indies. There his extraordinary talents must push him forwards, in spite of his modesty with us; what must ever recommend him when known, did rather make against him; besides, the number of half-pay officers must make preferment in the army very difficult for many years. I am certain almost that Shaw must return from India, a comfort and honour to his friends: he has not one who will take a greater share of the joy than I shall do.

I am ashamed to trouble you with the enclosed letter for George Ross, which I

leave open for your perusal, because, if what Sandy Johnstone says be true, I fear the underhand workers, you so lately got the better of, are still busy. Be assured, my dear sir, if I knew of anything which could have given foundation for such reports, I, for my own sake, would communicate them to you; but, on the contrary, as of late I have made it my particular study and attention to please the civil people, I am confident I have succeeded, and I will forfeit all pretensions to your protection, and the esteem of men of sense, if, upon inquiry, any complaint from this place for the two last years has a reasonable foundation. Every man has faults: I think I know my unpopular ones: it is, in my situation, wrong to be too open, and it is unpardonable to be too quick: I have formerly erred and suffered from these natural imperfections, if the first may be called one. I flatter myself, for the time

to come, to correct both; experience convinces a little policy is very necessary. Old age and practice make it now easy to curb a natural vivacity of temper, which in a soldier is sometimes a virtue, but in a civil governor must never appear. I beg my compliments may be made to Mr Oswald and the Colonel, and am, with the greatest gratitude and affection, yours, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY.

GOVERNOR MURRAY TO MAJOR GENERAL GAGE.

QUEBEC,
Sept. 16, 1764.

SIR,

YESTERDAY I was favoured with your letter of the 27th August.

I had wrote to you by Captain Fenton, and sent a copy of my military commis-

sion of Governor of Quebec and its dependencies, which, I think, is by no means superseded by the patent appointing me Governor of the Province. I am very sensible that the civil and military are separate branches: but as it appears to me that the situation of affairs here will, for some years to come, render it expedient that the governor of this province should have the command of the troops in it, under the Commander-in-chief, I imagine the packet you talk of will confirm that opinion. In the meantime, I don't think that it is either in your power or mine to alter what the King has already done; that I am the senior officer here, and vested with every military authority my commission as Military Governor of the town of Quebec can give, is undeniable; and, until his Majesty's pleasure is known to the contrary, I certainly will assert it. I

should thank you for the tenderness you express in choosing to diminish my trouble, by taking from me my military authority; but as I shall never think that a trouble, and am both ready and willing to do my duty as a soldier, you will excuse my accepting of that compliment; I, however, take it as it is meant, and am, with all proper respect, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY.

GOVERNOR MURRAY TO MR OSWALD.

QUEBEC,
Oct. 16, 1764.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM ashamed to trouble you, but the perusal of the enclosed papers will convince you of the necessity of it. Mr Gage

and Mr Burton have long been plotting to ruin me; this mine they have sprung is the most extraordinary thing which ever happened. You perceive they mean no less than to turn me out of the army. Mr Burton has, at this time, the command of all the troops in the Province, by virtue of a commission he has received appointing him a Brigadier upon the American Staff; Mr Gage, you see, will not allow of the validity of my commission as Military Governor, as he says nobody knows whether it is superseded, but the King himself. Is it not a pretty bold step in him to deprive me of my command until he knows his Majesty's pleasure on that head? It is all envy, without the least provocation on my side.

The necessity of the governor of this province having the command of the troops, is so evident, I conclude, that it will instantly be ordered; if not, it will

be impossible for me or any other man to give satisfaction. The Brigadier, in that case, will be, in fact, the Governor, and the nominal Governor can expect nothing but disgrace in the end, and disquietude, while he is endeavouring to prevent it. If, therefore, my dear sir, you find that his Majesty has come to a resolution to allow no civil governor to have any military command, for God-sake get me out of this civil embarrassment as soon as possible. The government of this province will be a good thing for some dependent of the Ministers, and I am very ready to resign it for an old regiment, in the supposed case of being degraded from the profession of arms, provided always, that I may be continued nominal Military Governor of the town of Quebec, a title, I own, I am proud of; I therefore say nominal, for I desire no salary, as I am, in the proposed plan, not to reside. Every

man has his hobby-horse: mine is to die with the title of Governor of Quebec.

Whether it will be proper or not to deliver the inclosed letters to the Secretary at War, and Lord Halifax, you are the best judge; I rely entirely upon you, and, with my compliments to Colonel Oswald, I am, my dear sir, Yours, &c.

(Signed) J. MURRAY.

GOVERNOR MURRAY TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS FOR TRADE AND PLANTATIONS.

QUEBEC,
April 14, 1766.

MY LORDS,

IN obedience to the 24th article of my instructions, I have the honour to report to your Lordships, that, until his Majesty's pleasure shall be known, I have sus-

pended from the execution of his offices, Mr George Alsop, who was appointed by the patentee, Mr Ellis, Deputy Secretary, Clerk of the Council, and Clerk of the Enrolments, of this province.

The behaviour of this man, from the moment civil government was established, became most notorious: it was he who began the dissensions betwixt the civil and military; it was he who, in conjunction with James Johnston, and Eleazar Levy, a Jew, stimulated the first Grand Jurors to act as they did; and ever since, the uninterrupted business of his life has been to revile and disturb government, at the expense of truth, order, and decency. The meanness of his character, and the mediocrity of his parts, have hitherto frustrated his attempts to create confusion. The new subjects are still dutiful and thankful, and many of the deluded old ones have been convinced of their

errors by Mr Conway's letter to me of the 24th October, in which His Majesty's highest disapprobation of the proceedings of the Grand Juries, and, of course, of their abettors, was notified. Was this Mr Alsop reprimanded for sedition by the November dispatches, to be elevated by those of January to the offices of the greatest trust and importance in the colony, the effect on the minds of the people is evident; on that of myself and the members of his Majesty's council, it is my duty to declare, that nothing but the King's express commands can prevail upon us to act with a man, who wantonly, without provocation, has done everything to undignify the members of government, which an illiberal, licentious heart can dictate. I have the honour to inclose a copy of the letter I have wrote to Mr Ellis on this subject, and am, my Lords, &c.

GOVERNOR MURRAY TO MR OSWALD.

CONDUIT STREET,
Sept. 26, 1766.

MY DEAR SIR,

I WAS in hopes to have long before this sent you a copy of the tremendous complaints against me from Canada. I know how much you are interested in my concerns, as I hope you will do me the justice to believe that I esteem you my father, my protector, my everything. They are ashamed of the complaints, but I am promised a hearing, and yesterday had a long audience of the King, who really made me blush by the many civil things he said. Since I left Canada, the noble body of British merchants there have absolutely refused to comply with the orders of the last Board of Treasury. I knew they would soon shew themselves,

and convince all the world that your élève was a necessary man among them. The King told me I must return; I answered, I was at his Majesty's disposal at all times, and in all circumstances, but that I hoped matters would be put on a footing to make it possible for me to execute his royal intentions: he said they should, and that French judges should be appointed to administer justice. I hinted the necessity of the governors having the command of the troops: he said he now saw that necessity. I find you are to be in Town in November. I keep off coming to particulars with the ministers as much as I can, till I see you, and to that end, I go to-morrow to Hoding, where my friend, Colonel Oswald, has promised to make me a visit. My brother Elibank proposed my standing for the Burghs of Haddington, &c.; but I waive the determination, until I know your opinion, which is

to determine me in every material step. Nothing but to get rid of the embarrassment of the civil government of Quebec makes me wish for a seat in Parliament; but how far that is expedient, you must say. I beg to offer my compliments to Mrs Oswald, and that you will be assured that I am, with the greatest attachment and regard, yours, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY

MR GEORGE GRENVILLE * TO MR OSWALD.

I AM very much ashamed at not having writ to you, and that very shame, and not

* Mr George Grenville, next brother to Richard Temple, and father to the first Marquis of Buckingham, was born in 1712; appointed a Lord of the Admiralty in 1744, and a privy councillor in 1754; made Secretary of State, and first Lord of the Admiralty in 1762; and, finally, promoted to be first Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1765. For his character as prime minister, and

knowing what to say for myself, has prevented my writing to you longer than I otherwise should have omitted it. For what can I say for not thanking you for the pleasure you gave me, and the trouble you gave yourself about me? and yet, 'tis certain it was not want of feeling myself extremely obliged to you, but rather because I would not write a letter to you to say nothing but what you knew, I hope, better than I could tell you. To give you some account of myself only, is not pleasant to a man who delights not in egotisms; and yet, for fear you should scold me, I will begin this letter with it. You pro-

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an elegant and impartial exposition of his merits and defects, the reader is again referred to Burke's speech on American Taxation.

It is to be regretted that only a few of his letters (of an early date) to Mr Oswald have been preserved; yet the friendship which they display, as subsisting between these eminent persons, is understood to have continued unabated during the whole period of their public lives.—Mr Grenville died in 1770.

phesied truly in thinking I should pass my time but heavily between Carlisle and Lord Derby's. In a little dirty cottage, half inn, and half ale-house, amongst the Westmoreland hills, I met Chancellor Bootle a-shooting, to my great satisfaction, I assure you, for, without his recommendation, I might perhaps have laid *upon* the straw, or rather, *amongst* the straw, for the former was the case even with his protection. I staid four days with Lord Strange, which I passed very agreeably; from thence I went to Lord Gower's, and from thence to Mr Coke's; at Lord Gower's I found Sir Watkyn Williams, who very near carried me into Wales, and certainly would, if I had not appointed to meet Pitt and Lyttleton in Worcestershire. Whilst I was with them, I received a summons to town upon some business that made my presence there necessary much sooner than I intended. As soon as I

got to London, which was about the 20th of September, I remembered to execute your orders, and went to the House of Commons to bespeak the papers which you desired me; that is to say, the Treasurer of the Navy's accounts, from the beginning to the year 1733 inclusive, the number of men born and mustered from 1727 to 1743, and the disposition of the money given by Parliament, during that period, as far as it relates to the Navy These, together with some estimates relating to the hire of foreign troops, in the year 1702, I shall have in two or three days, and when I see you, which I hope will now be pretty soon, I will give them to you, and tell you all I can make out from them. My business in London is now over for some time, and I am now at Marble-hill, at Lady Suffolk's, where I thought to stay but a few days, and to go on to Stowe and Wotton till the end of this month; but a

damned whoreson autumn cough, which hangs heavy upon me, has obliged me to defer my journey a week longer, to get rid of it a little before I venture to travel. It is now better than it was, and, I hope, will leave me without the consequences which I apprehended from it. If I can possibly, I intend to go to Stowe about the 15th of this month: but, at all events, I shall be in London by the end of the month.

The Duke of Argyle died yesterday morning. His death has been too long expected to surprise anybody, and it has happened in such a circumstance, that I believe neither his friends nor enemies will be much concerned or rejoiced at it. 'Tis enough to turn one's head to think how different this situation is from what it would have been two years ago. It may serve as a great example when one thinks of the cause of it: so may the E. of B. too, though with much less compas-

sion. The Duke of Argyle has left all his Scotch estate, except Caroline Park, unencumbered to Lord Ilay, and has entailed it on to the heirs-male of the family. He has given Caroline Park, and L.7000 a-year in money and land in England to the Duchess for her life, if she continue a widow, but if she marries, she forfeits all but L.1500 a-year. Lady Dalkeith has nothing at present. The two unmarried daughters have L.10,000 a-piece, which, together with L.2000 given them before, is all they have at present. After the Duchess's death, or marriage, between L.50,000 or L.60,000 is to be divided amongst the four daughters. Sudbrooke is given to Lady Dalkeith in fee, and the rest of the estate, in money and land, is entailed to her and each of the daughters, and their heirs-male successively.

This is all the news I can send you. The war abroad is over, and that at home not

begun; but the dismission of Lord Stair, and the numberless stories with regard to the behaviour of, and partiality to the Hanover troops, prepare things for a warm campaign at Westminster—at least, with respect to that article, unless some corrective is applied with regard to them. Lord B. and Lord Percival are supposed, by the public papers, to be the authors of that impudent collection of lies, called Faction Detected; but I can't help fancying that some part of it, at least, belongs to Dr Pearce, chaplain to Lord Bath, for no layman could be so impudent. Lord Bath has been, and, I find by several advertisements, will be, treated without quarter, as the author of it. I beg my compliments to all those who shewed me so many civilities in your part of the world, of which I am very sensible. I hope Mr Duff has received the letter I wrote to him some time ago. Jemmy is just come to town

from Somersetshire, and is expected here to-day. Adieu. I forgot whilst I was writing to you, that I had made my own head ache, and should make your eyes ache before you got through this long letter, but, however, can't dismiss you till I have assured you that I am, dear sir, with great truth, yours, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GRENVILLE.

MARBLE-HILL,
Oct. 4, 1743.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

UPPER GROSVENOR STREET,
March 17, 1747-8.

You do me justice, dear Oswald, and, I do assure you, no more than justice, in believing that I always hear from you with great pleasure, and particularly when

you give me a proof of your friendship to me in telling me how I can do anything agreeable to you. It is true, it is a good while since I last wrote to you, but surely not so long as to induce you to have the least doubt that I have always the same regard to you, and to everything you wish; and, therefore, without making any more excuses or preamble upon that score, I will now answer what is the subject of your letter.

In the first place, I need not say that your recommendation of Mr Wallace, as of one whom you have long known, and with whom you was educated, is sufficient to persuade me that he is a fit and proper person for the trust which he applies for, and which, I entirely agree with you, the government should be very careful of bestowing properly in the present situation of that country. I will not, therefore, take merit to myself in wishing that

he may succeed, nor will I confine myself to wishes alone, as *your friend* will certainly be entitled to any good offices which it is in my power to do him. For this purpose, I inquired, the day after I received your letter, to whose province the appointment of the Sheriff-depute belonged, and was informed that it was absolutely in the Secretary of State. I tried yesterday to see the Duke of Newcastle, in order to speak to him upon this subject, but to no purpose. I hope I shall have better fortune to-morrow: as soon as I have, you shall know my answer: what it will be I cannot form any opinion of; but, as you have borne your testimony to me of Mr Wallace's sufficiency for this employment, I shall have the pleasure of having borne it to those who are concerned in the disposing of it.

As to public news, there is none of so late a date as to be worth the sending to

you. Our general situation you know as well as I do, and what is more, I believe, as well as those who are the most nearly concerned in it. It is evident to all the world, that there is but little prospect of peace till another blow has been struck, which, I think, the French will bring on before the Russians (with all the expedition they may make) can possibly be on the spot to take their share in it. Whatever the event of that blow may be, it is a doubt with me, whether it will make much alteration in the terms of the peace which seems so necessary as to be unavoidable; for I don't see how it will be possible to borrow the same sum next year, as has been advanced for the service of this. The great discount that this loan is already fallen to, is a strong proof of this, and I am very sorry that you know it from your own experience, by the share you have in it, which I flattered myself

would have turned out to your advantage.

In the midst of this dangerous and critical situation, I am quite ashamed to tell you, that the Parliament has thought nothing worth their earnest consideration, but a private, or at most a provincial squabble, in which my eldest brother and myself are personally concerned. It relates to a bill which we were obliged to bring in for the fixing the *summer assizes* for Buckinghamshire, at the county town of Buckingham, where they have been holden for twenty-six years uninterruptedly, and usually for fourscore years past. In the very week of the elections for Buckingham and Aylesbury, whilst my brother was canvassing the county, it was declared to the people of Buckingham, that if they chose my brother and me, they should lose the assizes, and to the people of Aylesbury, that if they would

choose Mr Willis, (Lord Chief Justice Willis's son,) and Lord Inchiquin, the assizes should be removed from Buckingham to Aylesbury; and upon their compliance, Lord Chief Justice Willis, (who had before chosen that circuit,) on the very day of the election, or, at most, within three days after it, made the alteration, and removed the assizes accordingly. Upon this, the people of Buckingham petitioned the House of Commons, without any reflection whatever upon Lord Chief Justice Willis, desiring that the assizes might be settled in the same channel in which they had so long gone on. However reasonable this request may seem, and however moderate, as no complaint was made of what was passed, it is impossible to tell you the rage, the personality, and indecency with which it has been treated, which indeed has given me a surfeit of the good *intentions* of those who

pretend to oppose acts of violence; as I cannot persuade myself, but that if a judge had removed the assizes with the same public declaration against a Tory, the whole kingdom would have rung with it; witness the memorable Seaford, in a case not near so strong in any respect. Our friends, Lord Strange, Lord Deerhart, Mr Hoblyn, and three or four more, were consistent with themselves upon this occasion. As to the rest, I see their conduct with *pleasure* and with pity. We have had four divisions upon this important bill, and have at last got it through the House of Commons. It will be carried up to the House of Lords to-morrow, where it is to be opposed in the same manner, by Lord Chesterfield, who is come from Bath, where he retired from public affairs, on purpose, (*risum teneatis?*) and by Lord Bath. It is not to be expressed to you what interest has been

made upon this occasion to disgrace *us* avowedly; nor can I easily tell you how very handsomely those we act with have supported it. All this will be the subject of our conversation when I see you; in the meantime, you will have heard it in general terms from everybody. I rejoice, extremely rejoice at Mrs Oswald's safe delivery, and congratulate you most sincerely on your little boy. May I make my compliments to Mrs Oswald on this occasion? It is a great addition to my joy, that it will procure me the pleasure of seeing you soon, when I have many things to say to you. But I shall be obliged to go to Bath for a month or six weeks, in a few days. Adieu.

(Signed) GEORGE GRENVILLE.

MR LEGGE* TO MR OSWALD.

HOLTE,
Oct. 12, 1751.

DEAR SIR,

I THANK you for your epistle, and should have done it before for your friend-

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* The Right Honourable Henry Bilson Legge, with whom, during a long period of his political life, Mr Oswald was closely connected, was a good man, an able minister, and particularly conversant with subjects of finance. He had been originally designed for the navy; but that service being little congenial to his habits and character, he was introduced into the family of Sir Robert Walpole, passed through various political and diplomatic situations, and, at this time, held the seals as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Dr Butler, Bishop of Hertford, thus concludes his account of Mr Legge: "With a penetrating apprehension, and a memory remarkably tenacious of substantial knowledge, Mr Legge had a judgment so clear and sound, that it seems hardly possible for any human mind to be more accurate, and unembarrassed, and comprehensive of all the ideas that related to the subject before him, as well as of all the consequences that flowed from comparing them.

ly visit; but, as you justly observe, neither you nor I delight greatly in forms and ceremonies. I like your conversation with Mr P——, more on your behalf than my own; if he talked of something that might create a nearer connexion, it is very possible he may like you for a coadjutor himself, rather than to put you in that situation to your humble servant. I can't disapprove of his judgment, if that should be the case, and will do anything that can possibly come in my way, when I see him, to help forward that scheme which is most to your honour and advantage; but still you will pardon me if I don't let go my own hold easily; and if the original plan should have met with any obstruction from Lord A——, use my best endeavours to for-

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The latter signally evince how much he united the qualities of a pleasing gentleman, with the assiduity and talents of a statesman."

ward it there. I will certainly call upon you as we come to town, and bring my wife to breakfast with you, who, I'll answer for her, will be glad of any opportunity to be acquainted with Mrs Oswald. All here, and at Goose-green, are much your humble servants.

(Signed) H. LEGGE.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DEAN STREET,
Dec. 15, 1751.

DEAR OSWALD,

BEFORE I set out for Bath, which will be to-morrow morning, I must give you an account of the commissions which you left in my hands. I was with General St Clair yesterday morning, and left with him the exact form of words to move for your writ in. He received them, and

undertook the business with great good will and alacrity, and I could perceive the conversation you had had with him upon the subject had pleased him very much. The precaution you took of leaving a letter in his hands, to put your acceptance out of all doubt, was, at all events, a very good one. The General will follow the warrant for the new commission at the Secretary's office, and, as soon as he gets intelligence of its being signed, will immediately move the writ, so that I think that affair is settled. I wish I could give you as good an account of your other commission. I met Mr Fox, and told him I had a joint request to him from you and myself; to which he replied, that he would do it with all his heart, if it was in his power. I then communicated the business, and shewed him your letter, in answer to which, he told me the following story:—That,

about two months after he was Secretary at War, he was with the King at Kensington, who, in the midst of some other discourse, that led not at all to the point, turned about to him and said, "Mr Fox, do you never bring me any proposal for making a surgeon into a commissioned officer?" Mr Fox replied, that he hoped he had not done anything of that sort that was disagreeable to his Majesty; that, indeed, without this precaution, he might possibly for the future have done it. The answer was, "No, you have never done it, and I charge you never to do it." This, you see, is a dead refusal, which can never be got over. Fox told me that, accordingly, he never had attempted any such thing, and that he had never known it done in his time. The King, at the strong solicitation of Colonel Duroure, did, indeed, suffer a surgeon, who was a captain-lieutenant in his regiment, to advance one step higher not

long ago. But this was done very unwillingly, and the person was obliged immediately to quit his surgeonship, and the Colonel to provide another for the regiment.

I have called for all the papers we wanted at the Navy Board, and laid a foundation of intercourse with Sir Joseph Allen, by which I think we shall be able to get all the intelligence he can possibly give, in the best manner. I wish you much success, little trouble, and a speedy return, and am, dear Oswald, &c.

(Signed) H. LEGGE.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

HOLTE,
Nov. 10, 1752.

DEAR OSWALD,

I HAVE dodged so much between Lord Stawell's and this place, that your letter

has had much ado to hit me; but, as you are a good marksman, you have at last contrived to do it. You see my ideas are all so much infected with the love of shooting, that I can draw my metaphors from no other source, and, consequently will judge how much I have hoped and wished to see you here; nor will I despair of it yet, as the Parliament does not meet till after Christmas. The noble ardour you expressed in the furze-field last year, has made so strong an impression upon me, that I am very unwilling to part with the thoughts of attending you again upon the like occasion; but this we shall be able to say more of, if we meet in London before Christmas, which I think very probable. I now come to the other part of your letter. I do assure you, I feel for you, and know how uneasy a thing it is to have obligations of the sort you mention unsatisfied, and will do all I possibly

can to assist in it. I wish, with all my heart, I could take him into my office, and whenever I can I will. I have been long engaged for two vacancies, one of which I will endeavour to postpone, if I possibly can, but the sea-coal of London is so plaguy wholesome, that, since I came in, there has been but one vacancy. In the meanwhile, I will do all I can to help your man by other methods. I have wrote to Wallace to recommend him, in the strongest manner I can; what effect it will have, I can't say, but, I dare say, will procure all in Wallace's power. Pray, why should we not mention the thing to Lord Anson? If you will take an opportunity, I will back it to the utmost; and I am very sure he will do it upon your account as soon as any man's. In short, let us raise the posse, set our shoulders to the business jointly, and I verily think we shall bring it to pass ere long. If you

will set it a-going, I will have a starling taught to say nothing but William Hill, and present him to Lord Anson. I am, &c.

(Signed) H. LEGGE.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

HOLTE FOREST,
Aug. 26, 1755.

DEAR OSWALD,

I HAD the pleasure of receiving your letter three or four days ago, when I was in town, and in consequence of it, went immediately to Cleveland, to negotiate the two months' absence for poor young Innies, where I had the satisfaction to find that the leave was already granted. The reason it was not sooner complied with, was the want of a certificate from the surgeon of the regiment as to the state of his health; but upon the arrival

of that instrument, in due form, his request was immediately complied with. I heartily wish the poor young fellow may obtain all the benefit he can expect from this recess; but I own, from the countenance he wore when I saw him at Wandsworth, I should apprehend he is far advanced in a consumption.

What you say in regard to the conduct we have begun with, and must pursue steadily, if we hope for a good issue, is, to my understanding, truth itself; and it strikes me the more, because I know you don't speak at random, but with more knowledge of the real state of our finances than any man I am acquainted with; at the same time that you are far from undervaluing our strength, or not giving us credit for such efforts as we ought to make. Steadiness and economy should certainly be the two great pillars of all our proceedings; and, to tell you the

truth, these considerations make me almost mad, when I see a scheme likely to be set on foot that must transfer the war from the ground and mode in which we might hope for success, to a shape and part of the world where we can never be successful, and this at a rate of expense that must bring almost instantaneous ruin upon this country. Where the alternative is on the one side, not only success and self-preservation, but perhaps a greater degree of glory and importance than has ever yet fallen to the share of this country, and, on the other, sure and certain destruction in a very short space of time; flesh and blood cannot bear a wilful mistake in our conduct.

If these measures prevail, we shall be so far from demanding less than the lender expected, and consequently having him at mercy, as you justly observe, that, I will venture to say, the lender will have more the upper hand of the public than

he has ever had since we were a foolish and extravagant people, which is a bold word to say. In the midst of all this, I am afraid there is very bad news come from America—such as will demand very extraordinary supplies for that part of the world. I don't know particulars; but I am afraid Braddock and the regular forces have met with a capital defeat; and there is a silence observed in regard to the whole, from whence I draw very bad augury. I am, &c.

(Signed) H. B. L.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dear Oswald,

I am got perfectly well and strong again, and propose to be in town to-morrow night. I shall wish very much to see you as soon

as you can, and that you will bring with you the four last schemes for raising money, since March 1757, with your own computations upon them, that I may find out the rate of the interest as soon as may be. It will import me to shew that the 20me, retained as a sinking fund, turns very little to the advantage of France, otherwise, it may be said, that it is the strongest instance both of her money, power, and good policy, to be able, even during so heavy a war, to apply L.800,000 per annum, to extinguish the capital of the debt, and that it will be wiser, (and some will say honester,) if we applied one half of our Sinking Fund to the payment of debt, rather than take it for the current service, even in time of war. But, I suppose, a fair answer to this would be, that if France actually does apply her 20me, or Sinking Fund, to the extinction of old debt, carrying but 2½ per cent., and,

at the same time, is creating new debt at 7 or 8 per cent., (which, upon calculation, may turn out the rate of the last loans,) the wisdom and economy of this proceeding is not much to be envied. My wife joins with me in compliments to Mrs Oswald, yourself, and family: I am, &c.

(Signed) H. B. LEGGE.

Saturday, March 4.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD* TO MR OSWALD.

LONDON,
July 9, 1747.

SIR,

ACCORDING to your desire, I this morning laid your letter before the King, and received his Majesty's orders for filling up

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* First Lord of the Admiralty.

the vacancies in the Navy Board, occasioned by your demission, and that of Mr Gashery's, by the appointment of Mr Devert, Clerk of the Acts, in the place of Mr Osborn (who is to go to that branch Mr Gashery had), and Mr Russel to that place at the Board you sat at. Give me leave, sir, to express my concern for your being obliged to quit a board, the business of which you had made yourself so entirely master of, and in which you might have been of so much service to the public, had it been compatible with a seat in Parliament. I shall add nothing more, but wishing you success in your election, and subscribing myself your most faithful, humble servant,

(Signed) BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO MR OSWALD.

CLAREMONT,
Sept. 23, 1755.

DEAR SIR,

THE regard which I have for you, and the friendship which I am persuaded you have for me, engage me to give you the most early notice of some material dispositions which will be made as soon as the new writs can be moved. Mr Fox is to be Secretary of State, in the room of Sir Thomas Robinson; Sir Thomas Robinson is to be Master of the Wardrobe, with two thousand pounds per annum, for thirty years, on the Irish establishment; and my Lord Barrington to be Secretary at War. I hope soon to have the pleasure to see you in London, when I will explain to you the rise and cause of these

arrangements, which have been all made in concert with my Lord Chancellor and myself. I hope I may, in all events, depend upon your assistance. I am, with the sincerest respect, dear sir, yours, &c.

(Signed) HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

Extract of a Letter from MR OSWALD *to* LORD ———, *upon his declining to take charge of the Board of Customs in Ireland.**

I SHALL begin this letter with begging the favour of your Lordship, that you

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* To whom the following letter, taken from a compressed jotting in Mr Oswald's hand-writing, is addressed, cannot now, unfortunately, be ascertained; the zeal, however, which it displays for a most important branch of the public service, and the cogent arguments with which the writer enforces his particular views, cannot fail, it is presumed, to render the fragment interesting.

will be so good as ascribe the freedom I take in it, to the sincere attachment I have to your Lordship, and to the persuasion I am under, that the liberty I take is with the view of doing an essential piece of service to my country. If your Lordship does me the honour to believe me sincere in these principles, though you condemn the impropriety I may be guilty of in the application, you will yet, if I am not greatly deceived in your Lordship, give indulgence to the good intentions upon which it is founded.

After this apology, which, whatever indulgence may be given to it by your Lordship, was quite necessary upon my part, I shall enter upon the object of this address. Your Lordship will judge I mean the freedom I use in writing you upon your having declined Lord Ross's situation at the Board of Customs, which the Duke of Newcastle acquainted me of

yesterday. I had been one of those who, upon his telling me of that appointment, had testified, in the strongest manner, my expectation that, if your Lordship was prevailed upon to accept this appointment, it could not fail of producing the greatest advantages to the general interests of those two countries, which, though so long united, are still unhappily considered in many cases as distinct, and in none, perhaps, more fatally so than in what regards their revenue. It is, I am apt to believe, almost impossible to conceive what prejudices might be removed, what proper regulations might be made, and what great effects might follow, upon a just, true, and fair representation upon that subject being made by one who had ability, knowledge, honesty, and dignity, to support such representation. Your Lordship, called upon to the direction of that Board, without

application or solicitation by yourself or friends, would have had not only all those requisites, but a right to demand attention to any such representation from those who have.

In modern constitutions, the business of revenue and taxation is so interwoven with the trade, the well-being, and even the very existence of the different countries, that almost every step, good or bad, in the last, depends upon the good or bad understanding and management of the first. This is more particularly the case in our country, whose taxation is so extensive and vexatious, that scarce an art or manufacture exists that does not suffer by it, and does not depend upon some particular relief, which the Legislature has been obliged to introduce against the general rule. What an influence this gives to the good or bad management of the revenue, not only upon particular men, or bodies

of men, but even the general interest of the community, and its welfare, is too obvious to need being pointed out. But is it not equally so, that this discretion ought not to be trusted solely to clerks, or persons of inferior rank, whose representations may possibly be most frequently directed, either to obtain favour, or, by apparent zeal in the discharge of their duty, as if honestly made, may not have weight enough, either to balance the misrepresentations of ill intention, or the mistakes of prejudice. There can be, I should think, but one objection against your Lordship undertaking what, for the above reasons, I think so essentially necessary for the public interest that you should. The fact is, that your Lordship is both fitted and entitled to office of a much higher rank, which is certainly true; and had your Lordship solicited that appointment, it might, and would, have been subject to an imputation of the kind. But

if rank and dignity is necessary to the restoration of an office which must be allowed essential to the well-being of the community, your Lordship is called upon, not only from that circumstance, to undertake it, but from the universal persuasion that you have ability and integrity to execute it. Such sacrifice, made on your Lordship's part, would never be construed otherwise, than a sacrifice made of private interest to public good, which is always made with dignity.

LORD BUTE* TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR OSWALD,

I AM under one of the greatest difficulties I ever was yet in. C. Townshend

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* Mr Oswald enjoyed a large portion of Lord Bute's countenance and regard; and had it not been for the furi-

has been here, and all I could get from him was, that he earnestly besought the King to suffer him to remain where he was; that he would declare, both to his Majesty and Mr Grenville, that he would give him and his ministry the fullest support, and carefully avoid all disputes with Lord Eg——t; that, if his Majesty would not permit this, he begged to remain a private man;—this, without any variation, to the last, and I learn, from the King, that his brother George is of the same opinion: to turn him out on this is serious, and, if not, where is Shelburne? I

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ous national prejudices, and the party violence which then prevailed, it is well known that his Lordship would have recommended him to fill the highest financial department in the state. The fragment of their correspondence which has been preserved, is chiefly interesting, as it establishes the utter falsehood of that often-repeated calumny, that Lord Bute retained a powerful, and, as it was then termed, a back-stair influence, long after he had ceased to be the ostensible adviser of the Crown.

protest I am bewildered, and wish to hear the cooler thoughts of a friend on this important matter: do write plainly what occurs to you, and how you view all this. Every opinion helps, and a final part must be taken. I almost foresee that Grenville and the two secretaries won't be sorry, and if we proceed to extremities with Townshend, will join his brother and Lord Strange, &c. in deprecating: on my honour, I don't see my way through these meanders. I want a clew. Perhaps you may suggest some lucky thought to help me, and I shall wish to have it soon. Adieu. Yours, &c.

(Signed) BUTE.

(No date.)

FROM MR OSWALD TO LORD BUTE, IN ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING LETTER.

My dear Lord,

The dilemma which Townsend's conduct throws you into, distracts me beyond measure. The spirit of intrigue has gone forth to such a degree, that it is impossible either to form a judgment, or to propose remedies. Townsend can never be really serious in wishing to remain where he is. He has declared himself too explicitly, too warmly, and to too many persons, upon that head. The original idea, therefore, of remaining where he is, must have been formed with a view to *embarrass*. His brother, I should hope, and indeed I sincerely believe, has no such view,—much less my friend Strange;

and I am sure it is not the interest either of Grenville or the two Secretaries to embarrass their own administration. Such is the general temper of men, in mixing small interests and matters of the highest moment, and such, I'm afraid, the envy and jealousy conceived against your young friend Shelburne, that I should not be surprised if your Lordship's conjecture as to all these gentlemen joining in deprecating upon this occasion, should prove true; or rather, on my conscience, I believe it will certainly happen; though nothing, surely, will embarrass the future administration more than Mr Townsend's continuing in the resolution of remaining where he is. The settlement of America must be the first and principal object. It will certainly be the chief point, upon which all future opposition will attempt to throw its colours, and raise its battery. It will prove, in a word, the

chief engine of faction. Mr Grenville is, I am sure, sensible of this. Can we imagine that either he, Lord H——,* or Lord Eg——,† or all these together, can manage C. T.‡ in that department. It may be possible; but surely the difficulties will be infinite. All these difficulties will occur, supposing Mr Townsend's resolution to continue inflexible, and Shelburne to submit or acquiesce, which I'm afraid can never be with *cordiality*. You know the ardency of his temper: I'm afraid this department has been his favourite object. Your Lordship knows why I say so. You know the jealousy of his temper, and the impression he has already been taught to entertain of mankind. He will imagine himself betrayed and sacrificed on all hands.

* Halifax. † Egmont. ‡ Charles Townsend.

Would to God G. G.,* and the two secretaries, would balance this situation of the young man's mind—certainly formed to attach many friends. [Illegible.] entertain of being in any way supplanted by so young a man, or any other motive of jealousy which they may entertain from that quarter. They would certainly then see it their own interest, as much as I really feel it to be the interest of ——, rather to join the other in persuading C. to alter his resolution, than to rejoice, perhaps, at his continuing in it, as your Lordship seems to conjecture may possibly be the case. My own poor opinion on this very important subject, I must confess, therefore, is, if possible, still to alter his resolution; this, I'm afraid, can only be done by your Lordship, his brother, and per-

* George Grenville.

haps Strange. As to the others, I'm afraid he both hates and despises them all three too much to be altered by anything they could say, though I am sensible his opinion of the tried firmness of the administration has brought him to this strange and sudden alteration of sentiment, for so I call the resolution of continuing. If this cannot be obtained, I am of opinion it will be found absolutely necessary that the two Secretaries should change departments. T.,* I believe, is a little afraid of H.† He has served under him. The other he will try to embarrass, &c. &c. But he is to be satisfied.

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* Townsend. † Halifax.

LORD BUTE TO MR OSWALD.

DEAR OSWALD,

I FIND Wedderburn extremely angry at Johnstone declaring. I have often told him that I would certainly take no part in the election; that I had said all I could to dissuade Home, and was much against his project; that I thought all he had to do was to make the most of my poor friend's interest, for the behalf of his widow and children. This is the sum of my thoughts on this affair. The conduct of the present Ministers seems, whether out of fear of the newspapers, or disinclination to me, or both, to be all pointed in having nothing to do with me. This is so singular, that I cannot help thinking they mean some day or other to resign, and then lay the cause on me, though I shall know no more of it than you do; a situation not the most pleasant for a man, who, at present

estranged from all business, from the King, am as ignorant of what passes as if I was shut up in Bute. Adieu.

(Signed) BUTE.

(No date.)

FROM LORD HALIFAX* TO MR OSWALD.

HORTON,
April 10, 1757.

DEAR SIR,

A THOUSAND thanks for your obliging

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* Lord Halifax's letters will speak for themselves. The Editor may, however, be permitted to remark, that they breathe throughout, the high feelings, statesmanlike views, and lofty spirit, for which that noble and accomplished author was so honourably distinguished. His letters from Dublin, in which he adverts to the state of Ireland, are peculiarly interesting: they evince a warmth of patriotic disinterestedness, combined with a dutiful and zealous regard for the honour of his sovereign, which places his character in an admirable light. The Editor knows not who now represents that noble person; but sure he is, the display given in these letters, of that distinguished statesman's cha-

letter, and for the very kind and affectionate manner to me in which you de-

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racter, must be highly gratifying to those who take an interest in his memory. Subjoined are extracts from Cumberland's Memoirs, illustrative of his powers and attainments, and particularly adverting to his conduct in Ireland, whither Cumberland had accompanied him as his private Secretary: "There was something extremely excellent, and more than commonly interesting, in the person, manners, and address, of the Earl of Halifax. He had been educated at Eton, and came, with the reputation of a good scholar, to Trinity College, where he established himself in the good opinion of the whole society, not only by his regular and orderly conduct, but in a very distinguished manner by the attention he gave to his studies, and the proofs he gave, in his public exercises, of his classical attainments. He was certainly, when compared with men of his condition, to be distinguished as a scholar much above the common rank; he quoted well and copiously from the best authors, chiefly Horace; he was fond of English poetry, and recited emphatically, after the manner of Quin; he was married to a virtuous and exemplary lady, who brought him a considerable fortune, and for whom he took the name of Dunk, and was made a freeman of the city of London, to enable him to marry her, in conformity with her father's will." Cumberland proceeds, subsequently, to mention his patron's appointment to the Irish Vice-Royal dignity; gives anecdotes of his opening speech; and dwells with pleasure upon the impression made by his graceful and dignified

clined the Duke of Devonshire's offer.* The regard you have been so good [as] to shew for me on this and every other occasion, gives me the most sensible pleasure, as there is not a man living whose friendship and esteem I am more desirous to cultivate; and, if I shall be fortunate

manner of pronouncing the address from the Throne: "When a vote was pressed for augmenting the revenue of the Lord Lieutenant, and settling it at the standard to which it is now fixed, he accepted and passed it *in favour of his successors*, but peremptorily rejected it for himself. At this very time I had issued to the amount of twenty thousand pounds expended in office, whilst he had been receiving about twelve; and I know not where the man could be found to whom these exceedings were more severely embarrassing than to this disinterested personage: but, in this case, he acted entirely from the dictates of his own high spirit, scarce deigning to lend an ear to the remonstrances of Dr Crane, and taking his measures with such rapidity as to preclude all hesitation or debate." These letters, however, shew how anxiously he submitted this part of his conduct to his friend, and how desirous he was that it should meet with his approbation, and be supported by the authority of Mr Oswald's judgment.

* The Duke of Devonshire had offered Mr Oswald a seat at the Treasury Board, which he declined.

enough to preserve them through life, I shall consider it as one of the happiest circumstances that can attend me.

The probability of the Duke of Newcastle's return to the Treasury might render a seat at that board more acceptable to you than another, whose stay there would be more precarious; but I am glad that consideration did not determine you in favour of the offer, for the plan is so unstable, and the bottom so narrow, that I cannot say I think it very creditable to be made a part of such a system. The more I have considered on the affair since my retirement here, the better I am satisfied with the part I have acted, and shall ever remain so, though it is possible that it may prove of future disadvantage to me.

I am sorry Legge is out, though I cannot well see how he could have done otherwise. Before I left London on Thursday,

I unburdened my mind in a letter to the person you are to dine with on Tuesday. But I doubt whether he will quite agree in my politics. Indeed, he must step forward soon, and form, or help to form, an administration, or this poor country is undone.

Doddington came to me in the House of Commons on Wednesday, and told me he was to be Treasurer of the Navy: I cannot say I wished him joy, and much doubt whether he will find it. Our friend's politics, indeed, I cannot approve, though I make great allowance for his having been so long used to them.—You seem to expect news from me, but, God knows, I have none but what you sent me. Continue being charitable to me, and sending me what you hear. I am, &c.

(Signed) DUNK HALIFAX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

HORTON,
April 10, 1757.

MY DEAR OSWALD,

I WROTE to you this morning by the post, but having this evening received a letter express by Serle from the Duke of Newcastle, I must send you a few lines more. His Grace seems pleased and struck with the letter I sent him the morning I left London, and I hope he will be as well satisfied with that I send him now. He must take his part—indeed he must; for he may command everything now, and it may not be the case some time hence. My Lord Hardwicke's procrastinating disposition has almost ruined him before, and, if he don't take care, will effectually do it now; I know what he is in council from a series of accurate remarks, at least as accurate as I am able to make, and I am

sure his advice would be ruin to the Duke of Newcastle now. He speaks most highly and kindly of you in his letter to me, and says he shall see you on Tuesday, and will then talk most fully and openly to you. He will certainly shew you my letter. My opinion is, that he should step forward and take the lead now, to prevent confusion: that he will do it the more safely, as all the world will be with him, and the two other parties, neither of which can support themselves without him, and who can never unite together, will be striving which shall stand best in his good graces. If the people of Leicester House expect formal negotiation now, they are absurd; and, whether they expect it or not, it ought to make no alteration in the Duke of Newcastle's conduct, for they must and will look to him. If it be only understood from one or two of the principal ones of that quarter, that they will

acquiesce under, and rely on the Duke of Newcastle, it is all that he or they ought to wish; everything afterwards will follow of course.—The Duke tells me, I shall hear the result of your Tuesday's conversation; but pray let it be by Serle, who, I desire, may be dispatched with your letters. If things don't go right, I will leave the country. I now see the path so clearly before us, that I shall be wild if it be not followed. I am, &c.

(Signed) DUNK HALIFAX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

HORTON,
April 15, 1757.

DEAR SIR,

I RETURN you many thanks for your letter, which I this morning received by Serle, and would have dispatched him

back with an answer to it, but as that did not appear necessary, have given him time to rest his bones here to-day. To-morrow morning I have ordered him to be on horseback at four, so you will receive what I am now troubling you with, probably before your dinner.

Upon the whole, I am well pleased with the posture of things, because, as there is an interview now fixed by our two friends, I will not have so bad an opinion of them [as] to imagine it can prove ineffectual. The game is so plain, and, I think, so sure, that it would be madness to mistake it; yet, I must confess, that the natural timidity of the one party, and the propensity I have sometimes observed in the other to suffer his own prudence to become subservient to the hasty resolutions of less wise and temperate minds, give me some little apprehensions. These, and these alone, disturb me, for otherwise the part is such

that children might play it.—The quantum of the noble Duke's strength, of which he is doubtful, and I think undervalues, is of little consequence, as it is most assuredly such (be it more or less) as gives him a strong turn of the political scale at present. So clearly I think so, so well satisfied am I that there can never be a junction of the two other parties, that, if the interview fixed for Monday was to end in nothing, I would still, was I in his Grace's situation, act my part, and step forward. The violent and indecent proceedings of the City, in my poor opinion, instead of giving strength to the discarded gentlemen, disarm them in their own defence; and prudence, as well as decency, will make them modest and backward in their own cause, when such unjustifiable measures are taken by others in support of it. The Crown ought, and must name its servants, without such in-

tervention; but, at the same time, as the city of London's gold boxes bring out this truth, it will, at the same time, bring out another ten times stronger, if possible, which is, that the K—— can't be served by those who have undertaken his affairs at present. Where, then, is the alternative to be found, but in his Grace and his friends? What else can moderate between the harshness of those who have advised the Crown, and the intemperate spirit that inflames the people?

But I will trouble you with no further observations now, as I have determined to be in town on Sunday, and beg of you to meet me at dinner at the King's Head, at four. I have wrote to order dinner there, where, I think, we shall be more at ease, and less interrupted, than at my own house. I shall be in town at three, and, after having seen my children, will be with

you at the King's Head, at four. Pray let us dine tête-à-tête. I am, &c.

(Signed) DUNK HALIFAX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

GROSVENOR SQUARE,
June 28, 1757.

DEAR SIR,

THE Duke of Devonshire before dinner yesterday asked me if the Duke of Newcastle had proposed no expedient to me, telling me at the same time, that he believed he would, for that he had expressed himself in great distress on my account. Lord Waldegrave and Lord Hertford told me pretty much the same. I gave a dry answer, that I had received no message from his Grace. Legge, who came hither from Newcastle House, staid with me this morning two hours, but he is in such a state of mind, so absent, and so distracted, that

I was able to collect little from his discourse but that they are to kiss hands to-morrow; that the Duke of N. is greatly sunk and dispirited, and that Pitt has a very bad opinion of the Union. Lord Hardwicke and Lord Anson, contrary to the advice of their friends, adhere to the Admiralty, where his Lordship returns to-morrow. The Duke of N. sent me no message by Legge, and only expressed his uneasiness and distress. He told him that Dupplin is not to kiss hands with the others to-morrow, but that it is deferred, in hopes some expedient will be found out, but none is proposed by his Grace. I am resolved to go to Horton to-morrow, from whence I shall return on Sunday. If his Grace shall have anything to say to me, he will know where I am to be found.

I am, yours, &c.

(Signed) Dunk Halifax.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

March 19, 1762.

DEAR SIR,

A FEW hours before I had the favour of your very friendly letter, I had wrote a long one to you, which, on the receipt of yours, I instantly committed to the flames. You will wish to know why I did so, and I will fairly tell you. It was because there were passages in it, in which we were both blamed; and though I really think we both deserved it, I choose to drop the subject, as we have other fish to fry, and more material topics to discuss between friends, than why I did not answer your kind letter soon after my arrival here; and why, on account of that neglect, you resolved to be so long exact in your account of debtor and creditor with me. The first error, I own, was mine, but it was owing to the hurry of a new and

embarrassed situation, in which I wished to see a little day-light, before I chose to write to you; the second mistake was yours, in not making some allowance for that confused state; and the third fault was mine, in wondering, perhaps a little too much, that you had not done so. You see, I allow myself to have been guilty of two faults to your one, and so ends that matter.

I am happy, my dear friend, (for I have the *highest opinion of your judgment,*) that you think I have acted as became me, in consequence of the honourable mark of distinction the House of Commons of Ireland have paid me; and I am glad you have so just an opinion of me as to think I have not merely acted. I should have tarnished the credit done me by the address, had I received it in any other manner than I did; and I did not take my part without a determination not to suffer

it to be tarnished from other quarters. As my motives were so plainly set forth in my letter to Lord Egremont, I cannot conceive from whence any doubts can have arisen with respect to my being permitted by his Majesty to persist in a conduct not discreditable to myself, and highly advantageous to his service: to have received a pecuniary gratification from those I govern, would have destroyed my plan of government, and rendered me a pitiful ineffectual servant to my royal master for the remainder of my administration. I should likewise have opened myself anew to the numberless solicitations, which I have hitherto with difficulty withstood, from people who would have urged the same arguments for an augmentation of their salaries, as had induced them to increase mine. I could not have resisted them but with the loss of reputation; and I could not have given way to them, but

by entailing such an additional expense on the establishment as would have rendered the present of the Commons the dearest purchase to my master that was ever made. What I have now told you must greatly diminish the merit you seem to think I have in the refusal, for nobody deserves praise for not having been both fool and knave. I do not deny but that I have a becoming pride in having been thought worthy of the offer; but the refusal of it was a duty I owed to my royal master and myself. After this, my dear friend, I believe you will think you have no occasion to answer the several arguments you conceive may be started for my acceptance. There is one, however, of which I will take some notice, and it is that which regards my successor, though I think it has been fully answered already. In truth I am not of opinion that I ought to be made a sacrifice to my successor, be

he who he may; but if there be no tenderness due to me, much ought to be paid to his Majesty's service, which would suffer with me; and I am not afraid of being thought vain, if I suppose myself at least as competent a judge of it here as other men. But the fact is, that I have secured to my successor what I could not accept without prejudice to the King's service, and my own credit, and what he may both safely and honourably enjoy. He may find it placed on the establishment by his Majesty's command on his entrance upon government, without owing any obligation but to the royal hand from whence the bounty will flow. This being the case and the reason on which my conduct has been founded, being, in my poor opinion, incontestable, I cannot suppose, notwithstanding the various hints I have had to the contrary, that any attempts will be made to disturb me in the pursuit of it;

but, be that as it may, it is my fixed and unalterable determination not to suffer myself, on any consideration, to become a burden to this establishment.

I am aware that those who go no deeper than the superficies of things, may object that to persist in the refusal of emoluments which are generally thought necessary to my station, and which I have admitted to be so, is to be arrogantly indiscreet; but I must not shape my conduct to the ideas of such as only see the surface of the question, but be determined by the true merits of it. I hope you don't think I should have been so vain a puppy as to have declined any such increase of appointments as his Majesty should have judged proper to direct, consistent with his service and my own honour; but none such have been either offered or refused, and I will never admit the present of the Trojan horse in question, apprised as I

am of the mischief it contains. You do me justice, my dear friend, in believing I did not come to this kingdom with a view of enriching myself; and I never shall complain of such diminution as my private fortune shall suffer in the dignity of my station, if I shall be so happy as to have my conduct approved by his Majesty.

It is beyond me to conceive whence my Lord B——'s surprise at my desire to return home at the end of the sessions can arise, as it is no more than what my predecessors have done before me; and as I have never, during my residence here, till since I wrote the usual letter to Lord Egremont for leave to return into the royal presence, ever heard a syllable of any intention of keeping me here. If there was any present danger threatening this kingdom, I could comprehend it; but, even in that case, you will agree with me

that it was natural enough to let me hear something on the subject. The Duke of Newcastle, in a late letter complimentary on the success of my administration, tells me he thinks this country was never, in former wars, so free from danger as it is at present, and then draws the very contrary inference from what I expected, which is, that he concurs with others in opinion for my stay here; which is curious enough, to be sure.

I hear there are twenty Spanish ships of war gone to the Havannah; that their force in Europe is turned against Portugal; and that the French have sent a considerable part of their remaining fleet to the West Indies; so that, from what quarter apprehensions for Ireland can arise, I am not politician enough to conceive. The disposition of the Roman Catholics here, and the desire they have expressed to give proof not only of their pas-

sive but active zeal in support of his Majesty's cause and that of his allies, afford the most pleasing prospect of security here. What, therefore, the *present circumstances* alluded to are, I am wholly at a loss to guess; or how, in such a state of things, my desire of returning to England, as others have done before me, can be liable to misconstructions in any quarter. I did indeed venture to tell Lord B——e that there may perhaps be those, who, knowing my attachment to his lordship, may like me full as well in Ireland as in England. Something of this sort may be at the bottom, may there not? Do let me know your thoughts on this matter, and give me such observations as you can on the state of things and men, for I am in a state of profound political ignorance. Your letter will come safe, and for better security, be so good as to give it to my porter, with orders to put it into my news-

papers, as Legge's letters are. I return you my best thanks for your application to Lord Bute in favour of my old friend and tutor, and am as much obliged to his lordship for the very kind manner in which he received it, as I am the contrary to our old friend for the mischievous caution he suggested. Yes, yes, I can guess well enough who he is, and can furnish variety of proofs of his having done the thing himself, which he was so kindly apprehensive others might set a precedent of. I shall have the pleasure of telling you that your brother is a bishop soon.

While I was at dinner, I unexpectedly received letters from England, brought over by a Welsh sloop, and in one of them a strong hint is given me, that I shall be ordered to comply with the address of the Commons; and yet my reasons for my refusal in my letter to Lord Egremont were such, that I cannot conceive the King's

service and my credit will be so attempted. I shall write a few lines to my Lord Bute, to desire he would save both; and let me beg of you to fly to him, and press him to save both.—I am, &c.

(Signed) DUNK HALIFAX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

GLASSNEVEN,
April 15, 1762.

DEAR SIR,

I AM much obliged to you for your letter of the 27th of last month, and for the kind attention you have given to a subject in which I am so essentially concerned. It is in matters of this sort where true friendship has opportunity of shewing itself. You seem rather to state the arguments on which the opinion of others is founded, than any that have altered

your own; to those therefore shall I chiefly apply what I have to offer, and hope that my conduct, as well as the principles on which I act, will stand as clear in the judgment of others, as I am sure it will in yours.

You tell me the reasons I have given against acceptance are, in my own case, deemed irrefragable; if so, why may they not, in my case, take place, since my successor is secured? The office will enjoy the augmented salary; I only desire to be excused accepting it as proposed, because I think I cannot do it consistently with the King's service and my own credit. I have not yet heard a word of answer to the certain difficulties and embarrassments it would lay me, and me only, under—for my successor would not be subject to them; nor have any means been yet suggested by which I may escape the cruel dilemma either of unmercifully

loading the establishment by giving way to the various applications I foresee for increase of salary, or of forfeiting my reputation by rejecting arguments urged in behalf of others, after having suffered them to operate to my own advantage. Where is the alternative? Can you suggest any? I may perhaps be told, that though I should transmit a number of such suits to the King, his Majesty would not grant them:—if that should happen, I submit to you whether I must not necessarily be thought either to act a double part, or not to have sufficient weight with my royal master to effect what I recommend; and, in that case, to what a low state of credit as a man or a minister, or both, should I be reduced?

But you tell me there are two new circumstances which are thought to alter the case from what it was when I gave my answer to the House of Commons. The

first is, his Majesty's direction to accept, which makes it no longer a boon of the people; the second is, that the original idea of a Lord Lieutenant's residing longer than the usual time in Ireland, cannot be carried into effect without additional appointments, and that, by refusing them, I should disappoint his Majesty's intentions. As to the first, I will only once again repeat my sincere belief, that his Majesty will not oblige me to do what I know must be prejudicial to his service; and that, however it may be thought at home, that the King's directions to accept remove the favour to new ground, it will be no easy matter to persuade those who were the authors of the offer, that they have no merit in it.

As to the second circumstance, I desire it may be considered in the true light in which it stands. That ideas of the propriety of a Lord Lieutenant's longer re-

sidence in Ireland are not of a late date, is certain; witness the pamphlets and treatises that have been wrote on the subject. And it is as certain, that the state in which things were when I succeeded to the government, renewed them. I admit likewise, that no objections were made on my part, in case his Majesty should find such a measure necessary for his service, to which it was my duty, without condition or reserve, entirely to devote myself, as I trust I ever shall. But, I must confess, that whatever ideas might have been entertained of a longer residence on my entrance on government, I thought it probable that the tranquillity and harmony which have attended this session had removed them; and I was the better justified in such opinion, never having heard a syllable of my stay beyond the usual form, from the time of my leaving England to that of my having wrote

for my leave to return thither. It's indeed after my return home, my apprehensions of immediate invasion should take place. I never entertained a thought but of hastening back to my duty here, and should deem any orders for my remaining at home, at such a time, the severest and most dishonourable to me I could receive. It is very certain that the gentlemen of the House of Commons, in their offer of increase of appointments, had no sort of view to a longer residence of a Lord Lieutenant among them; and, if any such intention had been conceived, for reasons obvious enough, I am well convinced, it would never have been made. I am at a loss why I should be obliged to accept, for a reason never thought of here, unless requisite for the King's service, which it will surely counteract, at the same time as it will ruin my credit.

If a new plan of residence, as you sup-

pose, was to be defeated or endangered by my refusal, I would cheerfully be the sacrifice; but that is so far from being the case, that whenever his Majesty shall be pleased to determine upon it, such increase of salary as his Majesty shall judge fitting, will, in my poor opinion, be then made with far greater propriety, and on a much better foundation, than if it rested on the present partial good humour here to me.

In my present embarrassment, I can devise but one method of avoiding, on the one hand, the imputation of disobedience to the King's commands, or the loss of character, with immediate prejudice to his service on the other; and I hope it will not be disapproved, as it will secure every point, and provide for every way of thinking on the present question. It is to return an answer to the House of Commons, expressive of his Majesty's

sense of their attention to the dignity of the office of Chief Governor, and of his satisfaction in their approbation of my conduct. And thus matters may be safely suspended till I return to England, which I hope to do in a fortnight's time; and if his Majesty shall then please to command a longer residence in Ireland, and shall be graciously pleased to order an augmentation of appointments, I shall obey, and accept with that duty and gratitude which is due from the most faithful of subjects to the best of Kings. By this method, every object will be attained. The House of Commons will receive a gracious answer, which is all they can desire; for they have no right to know how or when it shall please his Majesty to increase his servant's salary. The King's plan for longer residence, instead of being frustrated, will be an additional and better reason for increase of salary than any they

have given. By receiving new emoluments on a new plan of service, I shall not be open afresh to applications from such as continue on an old one, and I shall, without discredit, withstand them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DUNK HALIFAX.

MR W. G. HAMILTON TO MR OSWALD.

DUBLIN-CASTLE,
Dec. 5, 1763.

MY DEAR OSWALD,

AMIDST your engagements in English,

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* The letters of William Gerard Hamilton are not only interesting in themselves, but strongly characteristic of a man very celebrated in his day, and still occasionally mentioned in the endless disputes and disquisitions relative to the Letters of Junius. He was joint secretary with Cumberland during Lord Halifax's Irish administration, and appears to have held office during that of the Duke of Northumberland. Cumberland gives the following particulars respecting him :—" William G. Hamilton, a name

I shall not trouble you with a detail of Irish politics. It will be sufficient for me

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well known, had negotiated himself into the office of Chief Secretary. I need say no more than that he did not owe this to the choice of Lord Halifax. * * * I do not think he took pains to conquer first impressions, and recommend himself to the confidence of Lord Halifax. * * * The speech of the Lord Lieutenant upon the opening of the Session is upon record; it was generally esteemed a very brilliant composition. His graceful person, and impressive manner of delivery, set it off to the best advantage, and all things seemed to augur well for his success. When I was called in jointly with Mr Hamilton, to take the first rough copy of the speech into consideration, I could not help remarking the extraordinary pains that gentleman took to engraft his own peculiar style upon the sketch before us. In this I sometimes agreed with him, but more commonly opposed him, till Lord Halifax, whose patience began to be exhausted, no longer submitted the copy to be dissected, but took it to himself, with such alterations as he saw fit to adopt, and these but few. I must candidly acknowledge that, at times, when I see people searching for internal evidence in the style of Junius, as to the author of those famous letters, I have recalled to recollection this circumstance, and occasionally said that the style of Junius bore strong resemblance to what I had observed of the style of Secretary Hamilton." This is not the place to discuss the question as to the author of Junius; but with regard to the inference founded upon style, a very indefinite one at best, it may be observed, that the only acknowledged work of Hamilton's, his *Par-*

to confirm those reports which you have probably heard already. From our first landing in this country, there has been a total separation between Lady Northumberland and me. I don't enter into an explanation of the causes; your sagacity foresaw them very early. From the nature of them, you will not be surprised that no precaution could prevent them. The first and the principal object of my Lord Lieutenant's advisers was to persuade him that the whole plan of Lord Halifax's administration was wrong. In consequence of this, everything was to be directed by the Lords Justices, and carried into execution by the Attorney General. My friend Hutchinson and I were exclu-

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liamentary Logic, differs from the Letters of Junius, in point of style, as much as it is possible for one composition to differ from another. At one time, however, these letters were very generally ascribed to him; but his claims are now almost totally given up; and indeed he is said to have voluntarily denied, in the most solemn manner, that he was —JUNIUS.

ded from all sort of confidence; and we have sat the silent spectators of the most impotent and ridiculous administration that ever appeared in this country. Notwithstanding the power of the Castle, and the influence of the Justices, was united, many questions, and those not immaterial ones, have been lost, and even those which have been carried, have been carried disreputably. My Lord Lieutenant having been first prevailed upon not to let us act, now complains that we have been inactive, and I understand that he has wrote to this effect to Lord Halifax. Though his Excellency and the Justices have been united to the point of carrying a business without the Prime Serjeant and the Secretary, and though the principal business of the Session is over, I have the strongest reason to believe that they are of opinion the remainder of the Session cannot go on without having recourse to our assistance,

and that they will be obliged to act much against their inclination, in consequence of that opinion. I have had, my dear Oswald, the Castle, a majority in Parliament, and the Lords Justices, against me during the whole Session; and I believe I am the first, and shall be the last Secretary, who owed his protection entirely to the popular party in Parliament. Nothing is to me more evident than that an address would have been carried against my patent, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, if it had not been for the unanimous support which they gave me upon this occasion, and which the Lords Justices were afraid to resist. My only request is, that you, and those with whom you may happen to converse upon this subject, would not form, but suspend their opinion. You know how impossible it is for any degree of prudence to prevent the consequences of private cabal. I am more particularly

anxious for your friendship upon this occasion, as the idea which prevails of some new connexions in my Lord Lieutenant's family, makes me apprehensive that any unfavourable representation might have more than usual weight with those in whose opinion I am anxious to stand well, and to whom I owe the most solid obligations. Believe me, &c.

(Signed) W. G. HAMILTON

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DUBLIN CASTLE,
Jan. 10, 1764.

MY DEAR OSWALD,

IN my last, I explained (in a way which to you may be called very fully) the situation of things on this side of the water; and I make no doubt of your proper and friendly representation in consequence

of it. I am now to trouble you again on the same subject, not only because every disposition which I formerly mentioned to you appears to be every day more determined, but because I think I can now see more distinctly than ever, the precise particular object which it is meant should be accomplished. The inexperience and pusillanimity of the Castle could give me but very little apprehension, if those very weaknesses did not render my Lord Lieutenant the fit instrument of others, who are both more dexterous and more daring; and if the manner in which I stand connected with him, from my present situation, did not make their influence over him, extremely troublesome to me now, and perhaps very injurious to my public reputation hereafter. You know, my dear Oswald, how easy it is to find colours to justify a conduct which people are determined to pursue upon motives they don't

choose to avow; and yet I should flatter myself that my adversaries have not, in this obvious piece of policy, been ever successful. It is objected by what is called the country, that I am Chancellor of the Exchequer for life. This office I had been in possession of near six months before my Lord Lieutenant's arrival in Ireland, when the Justices were unanimous in assuring him, that nothing but my return could have secured to him a session with any tolerable degree of tranquillity; and likewise in desiring that their sentiments upon this subject, (which was accordingly done,) should be laid before the King. By the Castle it is objected, that I am connected with the opposition in England,—and this is presumed upon from my very great intimacy with Calcraft; and that I could, if I pleased, prevent all opposition in Ireland by my weight with the independent men. Permit me to assure you, in the first

place, that both of these accusations are utterly false: and suffer me then to speak a little more particularly as to each of them. With regard to the first, if my inclination led me ever so strong to take that part, which, by the way, it never did, and it does not; and if I had no degree of gratitude for the favours I have received from Government, it is not, I hope, presuming too much to suppose I have some degree of common sense, and that alone must have restrained me from any engagements in a situation where they could not have been beneficial, but might, and probably would, have been extremely injurious. But the truth is, that my oldest habits of connexion, my obligations and my desires, do, and ever have led me, to wish well to Government. There is, indeed, a kind of continuance of ill-treatment and of want of support, which cannot be endured without as much injury

to a man's reputation, as repugnance to his feelings. But I will bear a great deal before I subject myself even to the imputation of ingratitude, for an independence of which nothing can shew me so much as political distresses, the real and political value; and I will never do, in any situation, that which, my dear Oswald, you tell me I should not do. With regard to the conduct of the independent men in Parliament, the short and the true history is this: When the principles of the last administration were to be reversed, and the Lords Justices found that they were to govern the said Lord Lieutenant, instead of being governed by him, they declared to his Excellency, not indirectly, but expressly, in so many words, that they could not be responsible for anything in this session, unless they had the entire conduct of it; that, in Lord Halifax's administration, their importance had been

hurt, and they made a direct point of it, that every kind of discountenance should be shewed to every independent man, declaring that my pursuing the contrary conduct was against me their principal, and, at the same time, their only objection: And they, at the same time, assured, and were responsible to, my Lord Lieutenant, that, if their plan was pursued, his Administration would be productive of everything that was honourable to him. Their plan has been pursued, and his administration has been productive of nothing but disgrace. To account for this, the object is to persuade my Lord Lieutenant, that I could, by the mere force of personal friendship, without the power of conferring a single obligation, persuade a set of men who were always enemies to the power and proceedings of the Justices, to acquiesce quietly under an administration, conducted entirely by the Lords

Justices, whom they had constantly opposed, and by whom, at this time, they were particularly proscribed. These gentlemen have uniformly conducted themselves with a degree of friendship towards me which is utterly unaccountable. But to suppose that a body of men in Parliament (some of whom have talents, and all of whom have what, in this little circle, is called ambition) would quit their popular ground without some other object being at least held out to them, or to think that their good humour would be increased by their ill usage, will, from your knowledge of men, and particularly of men in Parliament, appear too ridiculous to require an answer. Let me add, however, if I have one grain of veracity in my composition, I never did, directly or indirectly, virtually or actually, give, as you may have heard, the least degree of encouragement to any sort of opposition

whatsoever. Thus much, however, I must confess to you, that when Mr Hutchinson and I were informed, that, instead of being, as we were, under Lord Halifax, the principal conductors in Parliament, we were to act behind the Attorney and Solicitor General, we certainly were not, nor was it our part to be, as uniformly active as if we had been responsible for the event of every question in Parliament. The truth of the whole matter is this. The Lords Justices and the Castle united, can certainly carry on a session of Parliament. But it is as certain that they cannot, merely by themselves, carry it on with credit; for, strong as they may be in numbers, they are remarkably deficient in abilities, and the opposition constantly out-debate them. Their power is great, but it is not universal. This, though a truth, is a truth they can't bear. And upon this principle it is that they endea-

vour to ascribe the want of that unanimity which they promised my Lord Lieutenant, to the causes I have already mentioned. Permit me to add, that my Lord Lieutenant was about six months ago so sensible either of the incapacity of the Justices to perform their promises, or of their insincerity, that he stated it in a long letter to the Secretary of State; and, that he had determined absolutely, that Lady Northumberland should go to England to desire he might be recalled.

The particular measure which is now in view, and which I believe to be absolutely determined upon, is, that upon my return to England, I should be removed from my employment. Report says it will be sooner, and it probably would have been long ago, if the friendships I have formed here had not made it probable that such a step would have thrown the country into a state of the greatest con-

fusion. This negotiation is carried on by my Lord Primate, with Lord Holland, in behalf of Mr Bunbury. His Grace's object is, that this example should be turned into a principle; and that it should be considered as an established thing that no person of any degree of public talent should be hereafter in my employment. How far this may be right for English government, or being right in itself, how far it is expedient that it should be brought about by an Irish cabal, are particulars into which I don't enter; nor into the propriety of the Lord Lieutenant's being nothing but a passive instrument in the hands of the Lords Justices. I speak to you only, my dear Oswald, as my private friend, and as such, I beg leave to inform you, that though there are undoubtedly things disagreeable enough in my present situation, yet it is my point, my favourite and my sole point, not to be removed from

it. Ireland is still my object. A little transient trouble cannot change a system which has been built upon such solid reasons. I have experienced my present situation in times of tranquillity and disturbance. They both serve equally to demonstrate to me beyond the possibility of doubt, not only how practicable, but how reputable my employment must be, could I meet with only a decent degree of support, and I never met with more, even from Lord Halifax. My parliamentary appearances, I believe, will stand unimpeached; and in such a distinction of the Castle as never happened before to any one in my office, I can say that which the best supported favourites in my office could never yet say, that not one disagreeable thing has been uttered in Parliament; while many have, which were flattering to me, though my situation is, in itself, an invidious one, and though it was known I

wanted that support upon which my predecessors in office have solely relied. The object of those who have influence at the Castle is, to keep the separation as wide as possible between Lady Northumberland and me, till our return to England. The endeavours of Lord Holland are, at the same time, to do what may be thought necessary for my removal with people to whom it is thought probable that I should have recourse for protection. I speak this not from conjecture, but from certainty. The expedient of making me resign my office by every sort of obstruction which could be thrown in my way to embarrass the execution of it, has been tried without effect. If, my dear Oswald, you shall ever hear one distinct, specific charge, of any sort or nature whatsoever, asserted and made out against me, I will not only give up my employment, but resign what I value more than every employment, all

pretensions to your good opinion for the remainder of my life. But, instead of any precise or positive accusation, you will hear of my being unacceptable to the friends of the Lords Justices; of my paying no attention to the men of weight, and every attention to the men of business; and that many of the principal people had expressed to my Lord Lieutenant their dissatisfaction at my conduct upon these particulars. You must be sensible how open every man, and especially every man in public office, is to loose and general accusation. But the fact is true, that complaints were made to my Lord Lieutenant of the nature I have mentioned; but let me explain to you how these complaints were brought about. When it was once understood from those who certainly knew, because they could entirely influence my Lord Lieutenant's sentiments, that he wished to be told his Secretary was un-

acceptable, it was no difficult matter to get people to tell it him. The dispositions of the Castle were watched and followed. This account, and this only, can account for the contradictory conduct of the Justices; for their kind declarations upon my arrival here, and their change of sentiment so soon afterwards, grounded upon no pretence of any intervening mis conduct. These general dissatisfactions would scarce have been entertained by any, and would have been uttered by none, had not they been previously well informed that complaints of this sort, if made, would be well received. But whether this dissatisfaction is real or pretended, I apprehend does not at all affect that point, upon which I now particularly wish for your assistance; that is, not to be removed upon my return to England. The ensuing summer, and the next session of Parliament in England, will, of course,

produce events which may decide upon the propriety of my wishing to return here. But, independent of my desire to hold the office for its own sake, the removing me on the pretences upon which they intend to remove me, must materially affect my credit; and, however indifferent I might be as to my employment, I cannot be so in regard to my reputation. If this point is pursued with the eagerness I suspect, I know what very powerful adversaries I may have to contend with. But it is from your friendship, and from that alone, I hope for justice at least, and possibly for favour from that very quarter where they rely upon their principal support against me. Let me mention the only cause of real alienation in the Lords Justices. They have been very authentically informed that I early gave it to my Lord Lieutenant, as my opinion, that they should be indeed treated with every mark

of respect which was due to their weight and consideration, but, at the same time, with a diffidence which was due to their known character. This advice I certainly did give. That they should be offended at it, is not wonderful. That they should attain to the knowledge of it, by the means they did, is extremely injurious to a person in my situation, who, giving the best advice in his power, has that advice betrayed to the very persons against whom it was his duty to give it. On this state of the matter, you see, my dear Oswald, as well as if I had wrote fifty sheets, what is intended against me, and what my views are for myself. After this, I need no motive to stimulate your friendship, or suggest any measures to your prudence. The attainment of what I am going to mention to you, is probably impracticable. But I know the Castle itself, and those who influence it, might be brought round

by a single word, or even a distant intimation from proper authority. A mere expression from Lord Bute even to Lord Hawkworth that I am held in some degree of consideration by him; a hint that disagreement between persons connected as my Lord Lieutenant and I are, however they may affect one more than the other, are in a degree prejudicial to both; would, unless my judgment misleads me exceedingly, put everything in the train of reconciliation which I wish. That I should have troubled you with so long a letter upon points which are so very material to me, you will not wonder, and I know you will pardon it from that disposition which interests you so much in the welfare of your friends in general, and of me in particular. Not having been able from want of support, to take a shining and a conspicuous part, I have endeavoured, though in some respects in vain, to

take a guarded and prudent one; and it is natural for me to wish that the public character I acquired here in the last session of Parliament by some little talent, and by a great deal of assiduity, should not fall a sacrifice in this, to intrigue, to faction, and to cabal. It is for this purpose that I apply to you for your friendship. Be assured I have stated everything to you with the most scrupulous regard to truth, and that I shall consider your interposition as the greatest and the most lasting obligation that can be conferred on your most sincere, faithful, and affectionate friend.

(Signed) W. G. Hamilton.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

DUBLIN,
Jan. 11, 1764.

MY DEAR OSWALD,

YOU will be surprised at receiving from me a letter so soon after the last which I wrote to you. The plan I stated to you in my last is persevered in, with this very material alteration, that it is to be put into execution immediately. For this, they hope the support, as they will pretend the authority of English administration; and my Lord Lieutenant has given me to understand that if I cannot procure some favourable declaration from some person in government upon your side, that he may find himself obliged to remove me; acknowledging, at the same time, which is extremely particular, that he thought every objection against me wholly without foundation. They pre-

sumed, as I mentioned to you in my last, that, from my intimacy with Calcraft, I was connected with the Opposition in England. Under the pretence, therefore, of desiring an explanation of my sentiments upon this particular, they thought to bring me under insurmountable difficulties: But, when I answered as I ought, by a clear declaration in favour of those into whose hands the King should think proper to place the administration of his affairs, instead of being satisfied, they were disappointed. Then they found it necessary to proceed one step farther, and to require that I should actually procure from some one part of English administration, a testimony of my being agreeable to it. For this purpose, I have wrote, by this express, to Lord Halifax, from whom they believe I shall not procure such a mark of approbation; and perhaps I am not without my doubts. What I have to beg most earnestly of you, my dear

Oswald, is to obtain for me this necessary protection. I write this in the greatest haste, as the packet is just going off. They want to put me in the condition of a desperate man: they will excite in me the spirit of one. Succour me, my dear Oswald, on this occasion, and succour me instantly. Keep it in my power to be your friend with effect, and try if I will not be so with sincerity. Farewell. Yours, &c.

(Signed) W. G. HAMILTON.

MR GEORGE BUBB DODINGTON TO MR OSWALD.

EASTBURY,
the 26th October, 1743.

DEAR SIR,

MR GRENVILLE tells me that he left you in a perfect state of health, in Scotland,

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* Mr Oswald's name is often introduced into Bubb Dodington's Diary, and always in terms of the highest respect, both as regards his private character, and his public consis-

both as to body and soul, and this last from your firm adherence to the beauty

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tency and worth. In the year 1751, Mr Dodington seems to have been very anxious to attach Mr Oswald to the Prince's party, which was then looked up to by all the rising men of the country. In his Diary, the negotiation is thus related:—"I began with telling him (the Prince) that on Monday Mr Oswald was with me to acquaint me that he had received positive offers from the Court: he was surprised, and asked me what they were: I told him, that though, as I owed my first duty to him, I ought not to conceal anything from him that related to his service; yet, that there were also other duties that I held sacred, and if I should discover the secret of a friend to him, I hoped his Royal Highness would be pleased to promise me that it would go no farther. He promised me, and I then told him that Mr Oswald had been offered to be made Comptroller of the Navy, with a promise that *he should have the assistance of all Mr Pelham's power to reform the abuses of it;* and *free liberty to follow his own opinion in Parliament,* and that he came to ask my advice upon it. The Prince, concluding he would accept of the place, said *he was glad he should find so honest a man in business.*"

With many peculiarities in taste, dress, manner, and appearance, Mr Dodington was a man of considerable attainments. Cumberland, who appears to have been intimate with him, says he was an elegant classical scholar, and well versed in ancient and modern history. "Tacitus was his favourite, and I never found him, in his hours of

of holiness, as professed by the Church of England. I hope you have and will make the best use imaginable of this illumination, during the little time you shall be under its dispensation; for I most impatiently long to see you, and, though I know it will last no longer than till you pass the Tweed, yet I cannot forbear begging of you to let me enjoy you soon; come away, then, which, considering the change of religion which will certainly seize you

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study, without that author before him.* * * He was for nothing more remarkable than a ready perspicuity and clear discernment of a subject thrown before him on a sudden; take his first thoughts and he would charm you; give him time to ponder, and you could perceive the spirit of his sentiments, and the vigour of his genius, evaporate by the process. His impromptus were more admired than his studied speeches, and his first suggestions in the council of his party better attended to than his prepared opinions. He was also remarkable for the pomp and splendour of his dress and domestic establishment, and well deserved, by all accounts, the epithet of Old Beau, which, in one of Mr Legge's letters, is applied to him."

before you get to Carlisle, is little better than saying come and be d—d.

Be that as it will, I hope it will be open account for many happy years longer, and am only to tell you that your friends call for you, want you, wish for you: none of them does all these things more than myself, and that from many private, as well as public reasons. I have been beholden to you for too many hours of improvement, as well as pleasure, to forget them, and not, earnestly, to desire the continuance of them; and, as private interest is become the characteristic of this blessed country, don't be surprised that, without alleging one public motive, I press you to come away and gratify mine.

(Signed) Geo. Dodington.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

EASTBURY,
the 6th October, 1744.

DEAR SIR,

I RECEIVED the honour of yours with just the same degree of mortification that your personal appearance (which I expected about that time) would have given me pleasure. I am so much of a Christian, that I can, with truth, say, that I am glad that you have spent your time better, *though* at the expense of making me spend mine worse. *Climate and soil* are very secondary ingredients in life: a clear head, with an honest heart, is the real sun of every soil: they make the frozen valley bloom, and the rough mountain smile; with them, we can laugh at the north winds howling through the broken precipices, and make the incumbent gloom cheerful;

Nor envy Fraud her sunshine and her skies.

I thought of importing a little of this commodity from your side of the Tweed, to help to pass away this autumn; but you prevented me, and when I expected my cargo, truly you pop me off with necessity: a pox of necessity. I could have had as much as that of [the] minister. But I shall object to the use of it no more, because I think the ministry have brought it to a reality on both sides; and though formerly they used it, as false patriots did the interest of their country, as a stalking-horse to cover designs they could not justify, and durst not own; yet now, I think, it is a palpable truth, that it is of absolute necessity that we should be undone, or that they should be hanged.

(Signed) Geo. Dodington.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

EASTBURY,
the 28th Sept. 1745.

DEAR SIR,

I AM much obliged to you for your two letters. Our poor friend Johnny has made Mrs Dodington and I, who sincerely valued him, very melancholy; poor, worthy, gallant creature! May thy virtues be rewarded where thou art, and imitated when thou art no more!

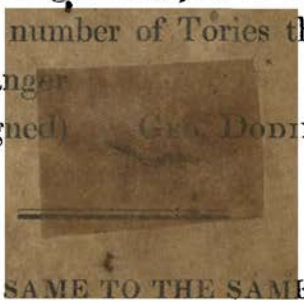
As to the behaviour of Edinburgh, I am not quite satisfied with it: as to friend Archy,* certainly he may be very blameless; but I find by all accounts, he has very ill luck. Some make him Earl of Leith, &c. What is the truth of the man's conduct?

Sure the behaviour of Cope's army is beyond example, and there must be more

* Archibald Stewart, Esq. Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

at the bottom of it than I can account for. However, though sure there never was such management, yet, I think, we have now a number of Tories that puts us out of danger.

(Signed) GEO. DODINGTON.



THE SAME TO THE SAME.

PALL MALL,
the 10th November, 1750.

DEAR SIR,

I AM much obliged to you for the honour of yours, and shall make use of your kind offer. I am much pleased with your improvements, and not only approve, but shall profit by the enlargement of Wandsworth Park.

I was at the first meeting of the herring fishermen, made several very weighty speeches, gave a list of the President, &c. voted in the majority, and, till the meeting was over, did not discover that I had

nothing to do there; but that it was my cousin of the same name who was the person intended, and subscribing. However, your poor widow may command his vote, if it comes to that; and my interest in any way that I can be employed to serve her, and so I have sent to acquaint Mr Cathcart, who, I fancy, is your friend.

Though I much desire to see you, yet I will be so just to your friends as to own I think them in the right to keep you as long as they can. You see I return good for evil, for now I despair of seeing you unless you come on foot; for an epidemical distemper has struck all the horses in and about town, so that everybody is laid up. This is true to such a degree, that the Prince designed to take the air on Thursday morning, and was forced to stay at home because his whole stables could not furnish horses enough to draw a coach. They went to Kew yesterday morning with a borrowed set: the Princess return-

ed to the drawing-room at night, and was two hours beyond her time this morning before she could get a hired set, to go and bring the Prince back. I pray for the healths and backs of the chairmen: if either of them should fail, for the greatest part of the matrons of this town will be forced to grow acquainted with the inside of their own houses, which, hitherto, have been of no use but to sleep in, now and then, after an ill run.

I am told, by good hands, that Parliament does not meet till after Christmas; and that the Ministry are at great variance; neither of which points I think of any importance.

(Signed) GEO. DODINGTON.

THE END.

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